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# ARAB TIMES

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## King Fahd calls for cut in expenditure

RIYADH, Oct. 18. (Reuters): King Fahd has called on his ministers to cut expenditure in Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter which has been hit by falling oil prices.

"The king reiterated his directives to all ministers to double efforts and co-operation to rationalise expenditure and limit it to essentials," a cabinet statement said.

King Fahd also ordered the formation of a ministerial committee to evaluate government expenditure on industrial projects and their returns, said the statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency.

**Deficit**

Saudi Arabia, which has a projected 1988 budget deficit of \$9.6 billion, forecast last March its oil revenues would reach \$19.6 billion this year. But world prices have fallen in the past few weeks due to a glutted market.

Official figures then put government expenditure at \$37.7 billion in 1988.

Riyadh has repeatedly warned of the dangers of flooding markets with oil and expressed readiness to stick to its Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) quota of 4.343 million barrels per day (BPD) if other members return to their assigned levels.

Industry sources say Saudi Arabia pumped 5.6 million BPD in the second week of October.

## US F-16 crashes in Turkey

INCIRLIK, Turkey, Oct. 18. (Reuters): A US Air Force F-16 fighter crashed near the southern Turkish town of Ceyhan today and the pilot parachuted to safety, a US Air Force spokesman said.

The plane, flying from the US base at Incirlik near Adana, was on a routine training flight.

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## مذہب اور سیاست

- مسلم لیگ میں نشستوں پر عدم اتفاق
- پاکستان اور بھارت اٹم بھ بنائے ہیں!
- لورائی اور امیر خاں نے لگیں سے ناٹ توڑا
- نیپلز پارٹی نے کھنوں کے بحران پر قابو پایا
- فلسطینیوں کو اسرائیل کی ایک اور دھمکی
- پاکستان نے ویت نام کو گت دے دی
- کتب پاکستان اور ادبیات

## WEATHER

TEMPERATURE will be around normal with light easterly wind to moderate south-easterly wind and some clouds will appear.

State of sea: slight to moderate

High water: 7.45 pm

Low water: 12.00 noon, 11.45 pm

Sunrise: 5.52 am

Sunset: 5.14 pm

Maximum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 37°C 99°F

Ahmad: 32°C 90°F

Falaka: 34°C 93°F

Maximum temperature expected: Kuwait: 35°C 95°F

Ahmad: 31°C 88°F

Falaka: 33°C 91°F

Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 60 per cent

Ahmad: 73 per cent

Falaka: 85 per cent

Maximum humidity expected: Kuwait: 70 per cent

Ahmad: 85 per cent

Falaka: 90 per cent

## 'Lebanon heading towards partition'

# Deputies fail to elect speaker

BEIRUT, Oct. 18. (Reuters): Lebanon's oldest parliamentarian declared his country dead today after the political impasse between Christians and Muslims torpedoed the election of a new parliamentary speaker.

"I want to announce the death of this country," said Shi'ite Muslim deputy Kazem Al Khalil, 84, the oldest of the 76 surviving deputies.

### Buried

"It is sacrilegious for us to dance on the tomb of Lebanon which we buried with our hands and collaborated in killing," he told Christian Voice of Lebanon Radio. "We are heading towards dismemberment, partition and to the end."

Only 26 deputies — mostly pro-Syrian Muslims — attended the session to elect a successor for Speaker Hussein Huseini, who ended his one-year term at midnight yesterday.

The session needed 39 deputies for a quorum, but nearly all 41 Christian deputies stayed away because they said it would not be safe for them to go to the old parliament building on the Muslim side of the Green Line battle zone dividing Beirut.

### Boycotts

The failure to hold an election paralysed Parliament, the last official forum for meetings between Muslim and Christian leaders with different political loyalties.

Christian boycotts also thwarted two attempts by Parliament to elect a successor for Amin Gemayel, who ended his term as president on Sept. 22.

Since then the country has had two rival governments and no

head of state. The Christian boycotts were aimed at preventing the election of pro-Syrian candidates.

The deputies who attended the aborted election today, among them Khalil, later urged Huseini, his deputy Albert Mukhaiber and senior assistants to carry on in their posts.

"We urge the speaker, his deputy and top aides to continue assuming their duties and exercising their power to ensure parliamentary and presidential elections," they declared in a statement.

There was no immediate reaction from Christian deputies who boycotted the session.

### Tradition

The speaker, a Shi'ite by tradition, names the date and venue for presidential elections.

The constitution gives no guidance on what happens if the House, which elects the president, votes on cabinets and approves decrees and bills, is unable to agree on a speaker.

Today's failure drove Lebanon closer to partition into mini-states after 13 years of civil war and heightened fears that only a new round of violence could resolve the leadership crisis.

Syria, the main foreign power broker in Lebanon where it has 25,000 troops, backs a Muslim-led cabinet under acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss. Iraq supports a Christian interim military government headed by Army Commander General Michel Aoun.

Shortly after the parliamentary session broke up today, the Lebanese pound fell sharply against the dollar, ending at 472 to the greenback compared with Friday's close of 440.

## Mubarak postpones restoration of ties with Iran

CAIRO, Oct. 18. (UPI): President Mubarak, in remarks published today, said he postponed a decision on restoring diplomatic relations with Iran until its intentions in the Gulf became clear.

Mubarak made the statement in an interview with a Kuwaiti newspaper.

"It is true that several contacts took place with the aim of restoring relations between Egypt and Iran," Mubarak said. "But I postponed (a decision on) the matter until the picture becomes clear regarding the (Iranian) position toward our brothers in the Gulf."

Iran, which is a Muslim but non-Arab country, joined the majority of Arab states in breaking off diplomatic relations with Egypt in 1979 to protest its peace treaty with Israel.

### Weapons

Egypt took Iraq's side in the Gulf war, providing Baghdad with weapons, equipment and volunteers. Hundreds of Egyptians are believed to have been captured by Iran as war prisoners.

On the Taba border dispute, Mubarak said he was confident that Israel will implement a verdict by an international arbitration panel that awarded most of the disputed territory to Egypt.

"The decision is binding," Mubarak said. "We, on our part, are committed to its implementation. I believe that Israel too will implement the decision of the tribunal."

"Israel is aware that its refusal to implement the decision will affect relations between the two countries. I think that Israel does not want this to happen," Mubarak said.

Mubarak also warned against the partitioning of Lebanon into mini-states.

## Wrestling declared off limits for Muslim fans

RIYADH, Oct. 18. (Reuters): A leading Saudi cleric said yesterday that Muslims should not watch wrestling matches because the athletes reveal too much flesh.

"The wrestlers are naked and so (women) should not watch wrestling. As for men, watching it is strongly loathed and detested," said Sheikh Saleh Al Sadihan, replying to readers' queries in Okaz newspaper.

He also said that when engaged to be married a woman should have a chaperone when speaking to her fiancé on the telephone.

"The conversation should be on important subjects... and a (relative) of the fiancée should sit with her during the telephone conversation," wrote Sadihan, a member of the highest Saudi Arabian authority on Islamic law.

Professional wrestling is very popular in Gulf Arab states.



Lebanon's House Speaker Hussein Huseini surrounded by bodyguards, leaves the Parliament House in downtown Beirut. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Report shows Israeli's excessive brutality

# 2 killed in violent West Bank clashes

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Oct. 18. (UPI): Soldiers killed two Palestinian youths and wounded an American news photographer today when violent clashes erupted in the West Bank's largest city following a visit by Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

One of the slain youths was a 5-year-old boy, Palestinian sources said. Neil Cassidy, 37, who worked for the California publication Frontline, was wounded in the knee. He was the first journalist shot by soldiers since the uprising began Dec. 9.

The latest violence came as Israel's foremost research institute on the West Bank and Gaza Strip issued a report that showed "a horrifying increase in the number of civil rights infringements" since the start of the 10-month-old uprising.

"The constant flow of complaints about excessive brutality indicate that such excesses have become an actual norm of behaviour," said the report by the West Bank data project, an organisation founded by Meron Benvenisti, a former deputy mayor of Jerusalem.

Responding to questions about the report at a news conference later, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said, "I don't think it's the right assessment of the situation."

"What we are doing now is to defend ourselves against the rioters, against people participating in disturbances and

## Address to the UN

# Roh extends an olive branch to North Korea

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 18. (AP): South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo, calling for a "springtime for peace and reconciliation," today extended an olive branch to North Korea and called for an early summit meeting in its capital without preconditions.

Roh, in the first address by a South Korean President to the UN General Assembly, also called on Seoul's allies, the United States and Western nations, to improve relations with the North and help to end North Korean isolation.

"It is our wish that our allies and friends will contribute to the progress and opening of North Korea by engaging Pyongyang in expanding relations," the President said.

### Parallel

Roh also emphasised that parallel to its ties with the West, Seoul was trying to improve relations with China, the Soviet Union and communist East European nations friendly to its communist neighbour.

He proposed discussions among the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Japan and the two Koreas to lay the groundwork for peace, prosperity and security in northeast Asia.

In order to achieve peace on the Korean peninsula, he said, "It is necessary... for both Northern and Southern Korean sides to build and maintain more rational and normal relations with all the nations that have interest in peace on the Korean peninsula."

The President repeated his call for a North-South summit meeting in Pyongyang with North Korean leader Kim Il Sung, without preconditions and "as soon as possible" to explore reunification of the divided Korean peninsula.

"Even before a non-aggression declaration is made with the northern side," Roh said, "the Republic of Korea will never use force first against the North."

### Accept

North Korea has said it would accept a summit meeting after 42,000 US troops are withdrawn from the South, after South Korea amends its harsh anti-communist laws and discusses military matters.

But Roh told the 159-nation General Assembly that these matters should be discussed in the summit meeting itself.

Roh proposed that he and Kim "resolve all the problems raised by either or both sides with regard to disarmament, arms control and other military matters" at their summit.

## 65 detained in Quetta

QUETTA, Pakistan, Oct. 18. (Reuters): Pakistani police fired tear gas at student protesters and arrested 65 in the western town of Quetta today after two students died in a campus gunbattle, police said.

They said students from the right-wing Jamiat Talaba-e-Islam group took to the streets in protest at the deaths of two Jamiat members in a day-long gunbattle with leftists at Baluchistan University yesterday.

Authorities closed the university and several colleges in Quetta.

## Study urges major powers

# Impose ban on chemical arms

LONDON, Oct. 18. (Agencies): Chemical weapons production could spread quickly if major powers do not act soon to impose a global ban, the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) said today.

Director Francois Heisbourg, presenting the institute's annual "military balance" report, said the use of poison gas in the eight-year Gulf war with Iran had undermined the existing 1925 Geneva international protocol outlawing chemical attacks.

Only the Soviet Union, the United States and Iraq had acknowledged having chemical arms. But there was strong evidence that Syria and Libya could produce poison gases, while some estimates said up to 20 nations might have the capability.

"The authority of the 1925 protocol has been undermined. If that authority is not reaffirmed quickly—and hopefully that will be the result of the 1989 conference in Paris—I suspect other countries who theoretically could produce chemical weapons might be tempted to do so," he told a news conference.

"This is a matter of real urgency," he said.

French President Mitterrand last month proposed an international conference to prepare a global ban on production and stockpiling as well as use of chemical weapons.

### Verification

The Soviet Union and the United States agree in principle on the need for a production ban, but 40-nation United Nations disarmament talks in Geneva have failed to reach agreement on verification and other vital technical issues.

The development of so-called binary weapons has complicated verification. Binary warheads contain two compartments, each with chemicals which are harm-

less on their own but produce deadly gas when mixed on exploding.

Experts fear signatories could continue producing such chemicals, arguing that they were for industrial use. Western manufacturers have also complained that Warsaw Pact observers could use verification visits to their plants to steal commercial secrets.

### Problems

China apparently is having problems developing its submarine-launched nuclear missile programme, the institute said today.

"The military balance 1988-89," the institute said it now believes China has deployed only one nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, known as XIA, instead of two as reported last year.

"This went through a very lengthy fitting out and testing and evaluation period before becoming operational," it said.

The survey added that three more submarines are being built, but "construction progresses extremely slowly."

India's military capabilities increased significantly during the year with major new weapons deliveries. These included leasing a Soviet Charlie class nuclear-powered submarine, buying two other submarines, a guided missile destroyer and a frigate.

## Iraq rejects US report on poison gas

BAGHDAD, Oct. 18. (Reuters): Iraq has rejected a US medical team's findings that Baghdad forces used poison gas against dissident Kurds.

The official Iraqi News Agency quoted an official source as saying: "Ridiculous allegations fanned by imperialist propaganda media of Iraq's use of chemical weapons against Kurds are mere falsehood."

## Father of modern French economics wins Nobel

STOCKHOLM, Oct. 18. (Reuters): Maurice Allais, founding father of modern French economics, won the 1988 Nobel economics prize today, mainly for studies into the efficient operations of large state-owned monopolies.

"Allais is a giant within the world of economic analysis," said Assar Lindbeck, chairman of the awarding committee of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

"He has had an enormous influence on French economics and can be said to be the founding father of the French school of modern economics," Lindbeck told a news conference.

In Paris, the 77-year-old economist said he had given up hope of ever receiving the award, which this year is worth 2.5 million crowns (\$400,000).

### Studies

"I knew they had been considering me for the last two years but I no longer expected it," he told Reuters.

Allais made his main theoretical contributions in two massive studies published in 1943 and 1954, the first running to 900 pages and the second to 800.

But their very length and complexity prevented his work becoming well-known beyond the borders of France.

The Nobel committee quoted the assessment of a previous Nobel laureate, American Paul Samuelson, who won the prize in 1970. He said: "Allais is a fountain of original and independent discovery. Had his earliest writings been in English, a generation of economic theory would have taken a different course."

### Methods

Allais' work on the efficient utilisation of resources was of particular relevance for the management of the large state-owned monopolies which sprang up in Western Europe after World War Two.

"He developed methods of analysis for decision-taking in public utilities," said Lindbeck.

Younger French economists built on the basic research to



Maurice Allais

produce detailed analyses of companies such as the French state-owned railway SNCF and the Electricite de France Utility.

The theory he advanced, according to the committee, stated that an economic situation whereby demand for a product matches supply is socially efficient in the sense that no one can become better off without someone else becoming worse off.

Such situations could be achieved through redistribution of resources and a system of stable prices, Allais stated.

The academy said Allais has had a far-reaching indirect impact through younger French economists who have been strongly influenced by his work.

It was the fourth of this year's prizes to be decided. The physics and chemistry award winners are to be announced tomorrow.

## Bomb blast

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 18. (Reuters): A bomb ripped through a town bazaar in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province today, killing three people and wounding 18, the state television said.

It said the bomb exploded at Charsadda, 25 km (15 miles) north-east of the provincial capital Peshawar. There was no immediate information about who set off the bomb.

## Tehran still making obstacles for progress in talks

# Iraq rejects Iran's acceptance of UN peace plan

BAGHDAD, Oct. 18. (Agencies): A senior Iraqi official today rejected Iran's acceptance of a United Nations peace plan for ending the eight-year Gulf war that includes dredging the waterway between the two Gulf nations.

Foreign Undersecretary Nizar Hamdoun said in an interview with the Associated Press that Iran was trying to "pressure" Iraq over a compromise peace formula worked out by UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

He said Iran was setting unacceptable conditions by insisting that a 1975 treaty setting the border in the middle of the waterway be maintained.

The waterway in the northern Gulf is known as the Shatt Al Arab to Iraq and the Arvand River to Iran.

"The Iranian position... is an attempt to pressure Iraq to relinquish its political and legal rights while the two sides are discussing purely technical issues," Hamdoun said.

"Iran is still making obstacles for progress in the talks. The Iranian delegation has raised claims that have no base in international law, the UN charter and principles governing ceasefire agreements," he added.

Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said yesterday that Iran agreed to the four-point

peace plan but only on condition that the treaty is upheld.

The Algiers Treaty draws the border down the waterway's median deep-water channel instead of the Iranian shoreline. Iraq says it is no longer valid.

### Proposal

The four conditions that Velayati said Iran accepted are the withdrawal of all forces to international boundaries, agreeing not to search ships in the Gulf, exchanging prisoners of war and dredging the waterway.

The Iraqi official said Velayati's statements were "for local consumption."

"Iran is still reluctant to accept Iraq's proposal that the UN

Secretary-General should undertake the responsibility for clearing the Shatt Al Arab waterway in the framework of the ceasefire arrangements and regardless of its legal status," Hamdoun said.

Iraq said today it was willing to discuss the dredging of the Shatt Al Arab waterway in peace talks with Iraq, potentially removing an obstacle to the negotiations.

"Iran has never been against dredging the Arvand River (Shatt Al Arab) but it is an issue to be worked out in the context of the 1975 accord and article four of (Security Council) Resolution 598," IRNA, the Iranian news agency, quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying.



## Benazir rivals fail to form grand alliance

ISLAMABAD, Oct 18. (Reuters): Rivals of Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto have failed to form a grand alliance against her in general elections next month, the official APP news agency said. It said leaders of two alliances opposing Benazir's Pakistan

People's Party (PPP) decided yesterday after two days of talks to contest the Nov 16 polls separately. But they would make "adjustments of (electoral) seats to avoid a direct clash between their candidates," it said. The PPP is Pakistan's largest

opposition group.

The talks took place in the Punjab province capital of Lahore after a decision on Friday by two quarrelling factions of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League (PML) to reunite to face the PPP in the polls.

"All the efforts to form a

greater political alliance of the two alliances had failed," APP said in a dispatch yesterday.

The PML factions had joined two different alliances, and it was not immediately clear with which group the reunited PML had chosen to side.

## Polls find Bush ahead of Dukakis

WASHINGTON, Oct 18. (Reuters): Democrat Michael Dukakis, his support plummeting in opinion polls, stumped cities in Michigan today as part of a strategy to win key states rather than a nationwide sweep in next month's presidential election.

But his Republican rival Vice-President George Bush, wary of over-confidence despite projections of a possible landslide win, plans only a one-day respite in campaigning during the 20 days before the Nov 8 vote.

An NBC-Wall Street Journal poll of 1,378 likely voters released yesterday showed Bush with a 55-38 per cent lead, which would translate into 303 probable electoral college votes against 105 for Dukakis.

In the indirect US system, the winner of the popular vote in a state takes all its electoral votes. A total of 270 electoral votes are needed for victory.

Other recent polls have shown Bush with a solid hold on more than 200 electoral votes compared with fewer than 100 for Dukakis.

Dukakis has opened his new offensive — aimed at 20 heavily populated states — in the industrial Midwest where Ohio, Michigan and Illinois together have 67 electoral votes.

In Dayton, Ohio, he said yesterday: "The business of polls is really having a terrible effect. It's terrible."

He said: "I can only tell you that there are other polls saying very different things."

Dukakis targeted the economic problems of the three states, known as their heavy industries close, as "the rust belt."

He told factory workers in Dayton: "Every week we lose

thousands of manufacturing jobs."

Dukakis said the trend would continue if Bush became president: "His record tells America's heartland 'let it rust'."

On the same day Bush toured a defence plant at Denver, Colorado, and promised military researchers he would press ahead as president with the controversial strategic defence initiative known as "Star Wars" and other strong defences.

Bush, who has stated that he would balance the US budget by 1991 or 1992, said: "We do not need major increases in defence spending nor can we afford major decreases."

Later the Republican candidate stood in a rainstorm in Skokie, Illinois, to tell Jewish voters: "I am committed to the survival of Israel. It has survived. It will survive."

The NBC-Wall Street Journal survey showed 18 states strongly favouring Bush with another 15 leaning towards him. Dukakis was strong in only six states with three leaning toward him.

Eight states with a possibly decisive 130 electoral votes, including California, Oregon and Washington, were considered too close to count for either candidate.

### Missile elimination

TUCSON, Arizona, Oct 18. (Reuters): American technicians begin the laborious task of destroying 41 cruise missiles today, armed with saws normally used to pry trapped passengers from car wrecks.

An Air Force spokesman said it will take about 24 hours of continuous sawing to break up the missiles, their canisters and launchers at a desert Air Force base near Tucson.

## PLO will boycott Israeli-sponsored polls in Gaza and West Bank

TUNIS, Oct 18. (Reuters): The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would boycott Israeli-sponsored municipal elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, a PLO spokesman said today.

Jamil Hilal, head of the PLO information department in Tunis, also dismissed Israeli speculation that the PLO was interested in reviving the idea of a confederation with Jordan to satisfy US objections to an independent Palestinian state.

The leadership of the intifada (uprising) has demanded free elections under United Nations supervision after Israeli withdrawal. We would not take part in any elections held under occupation," Hilal told Reuters.

### Withdrawal

"The aim of the uprising is not to have elections, but to bring about Israeli withdrawal and an independent state. The intifada will continue until then and we will not lose sight of that aim," he added.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin told a news conference yesterday his Labour Party, if elected next month, would allow Palestinians in the occupied territories to elect local representatives for peace talks with Israel.

This would be on condition that they agreed to halt the 11-month-old uprising for at least three to six weeks, he said.

Hilal said talk of a return to confederation with Jordan, at least until there was first an independent Palestinian state, was complete nonsense.

"There's no going back on an

independent Palestinian state and the right of the PLO to represent the Palestinian people fully and independently," he said.

He noted that some Palestinian leaders have, however, left the option of confederation open if the peoples of Jordan and of an independent Palestine agreed on that later.

Hilal said a main aim of the Palestine National Council (PNC) meeting expected to take place in Algiers within two or three weeks was "to bury the Jordanian option" by declaring the independent Palestinian state.

PLO officials said today they expected the PLO executive committee to decide on a date for the PNC session at a meeting in Tunis within 48 hours.

Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader and committee chairman, met Algerian President Chadli Benjedid in Algiers yesterday to discuss the timing, they said.

Arab newspapers have widely reported that the PNC meeting will start on Oct 31 but one PLO official told Reuters today he thought the Algerians would prefer to host it after their Nov 3 referendum on constitutional reforms.

Apart from declaring an independent state the PNC, the PLO's parliament-in-exile, is expected to endorse a PLO political statement which is still under debate in the Palestinian movement.

PLO officials say that despite pressure from many states, the statement will not contain an explicit recognition of Israel.

## OIC meets to discuss ways to end hunger

ISLAMABAD, Oct 18. (AP): The Organisation of Islamic Conference, convened today for a three-day meeting to discuss ways to end hunger.

Representatives from 42 of the 46 organisation members are in the Pakistan capital to sort through proposals directed at agricultural development and food security.

Sharifuddin Pirzada, the organisation's secretary-general, told delegates the economic outlook for developing countries "continues to be bleak."

### Disasters

Protectionist policies are taking hold in the developing world while the poor continue to buckle under the weight of "high export bills and crippling debt burdens," he said.

Countries within the Islamic conference, such as Sudan and Bangladesh, also have been hit hard by natural disasters such as drought and heavy flooding.

Pirzada said the Islamic conference should initiate regional stockpiling, which would be used to bail out countries hit by these natural disasters.

Pakistan President Ghulam Ishaq Khan said 1988 has been a particularly bad year for organisation members. Floods have forced countries to import more cereal products as the international price of cereals has risen, he said.

Consequently, much of the foreign exchange required to pay off debts of the international money market and finance internal development projects is being diverted.

Ishaq Khan suggested that organisation members stop exporting raw materials and instead establish agricultural manufacturing industries.

"Exporting raw materials is not profitable," he said.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Escaped detainees

JOHANNESBURG, Oct 18. (Reuters): Three black anti-apartheid activists who fled from detention to the US consulate in Johannesburg last month will leave the mission tomorrow, supporters said in a statement.

The anti-government Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) said today the three would test a government undertaking not to rearrest them.

The activists — Murphy Morobe, Mohammed Valli and Vusi Khanyile — appeared to be acting on the advice of jailed nationalist leader Nelson Mandela.

### Squirrels battle

JOHANNESBURG, Oct 18. (Reuters): The South African government has hired a cast of cutely-dressed squirrels to go into battle against Archbishop Desmond Tutu and other black critics.

The activists — Murphy Morobe, Mohammed Valli and Vusi Khanyile — appeared to be acting on the advice of jailed nationalist leader Nelson Mandela.

The five million rand (two million dollar) television and newspaper campaign urges South Africans to "make it happen by voting for the candidate of your choice on Oct 26."

Pitted against the squirrels are black leaders such as Tutu who denounce the municipal elections as an exercise in apartheid and call for a voter boycott.

### President warns

BELGRADE, Oct 18. (AP): Yugoslavia's President warned today of "great danger" for the country if communist leaders continued arguing over economic and ethnic unrest in the worst crisis since World War II. But leaders from the country's two largest republics clashed openly as a meeting of the Communist Party's central committee entered its second day in the face of weeks of protests.

The country's economic problems include 217 per cent inflation, 15 per cent unemployment and a \$21-billion foreign debt, spawning protests by impoverished workers.

### Holst in Amman

AMMAN, Oct 18. (Reuters): Norwegian Defence Minister Johan Joergen Holst arrived in Amman today and held talks with Prime Minister Zeid Al Rifa'i on bilateral co-operation, the state-run news agency Petra said.

It gave few details but said Holst was in Jordan as part of a Middle East tour to inspect Norway's nearly 1,000 soldiers stationed with UN peacekeeping forces in the region.

Holst arrived from Baghdad. Norway has some 15 soldiers with the UN Iraq-Iran Military Observer Group (UNIMOG) monitoring the ceasefire in the Gulf war.

### Queen addresses

MADRID, Oct 18. (AP): Queen Elizabeth II paid homage to Spanish war dead, addressed Parliament and accepted the keys to the capital today during a busy second day of her five-day visit to Spain, the first ever by a reigning British monarch.

The Queen told a joint session of Parliament the two countries would play important roles in the future development of Europe and praised Spain for 10 years of democracy following nearly four decades under the authoritarian regime of Gen. Francisco Franco.

### Iran acquires new weapon: Rafsanjani

NICOSIA, Oct 18. (Reuters): Iranian military supreme Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said today Iran had acquired a new weapon to discourage Iraq from attacking its cities.

"A new device has recently fallen into our hands. We hope the enemy will not fancy starting the war of the cities again considering that we have that device," he told Tehran Radio. Rafsanjani did not say what the weapon was or how Iran had acquired it.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry said last March that Iran may have used Soviet-built rockets obtained through Libya to attack Iraq.

Rafsanjani, interviewed after a two-day tour of two western provinces near the Iraqi border, said he found during his visit that the military forces had used the calm on the battle fronts for training and stocking war material.

"We are now neither at war nor at peace... there is the possibility of war flaring up again," he said. "We shouldn't forget that the enemy may still have the same incentives, but it will not accept the danger of restarting the war easily."

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## Blind S. Koreans protest to save jobs

SEOUL, Oct. 18. (Agencies): About 350 blind South Korean masseurs and their relatives blocked traffic in a sit-down protest in central Seoul today against a new law they say threatens their jobs.

The demonstration was called after the health minister said he would approve legislation allowing herbal doctors and acupuncturists to use massage in their treatment.

Massage has traditionally been a monopoly of the blind in South Korea.

"The government is robbing us of our sole livelihood. This is how the host country of the Paralympics treats its disabled," a spokesman said.

Seoul, which hosted the Olympic Games last month, is currently staging the world sports festival for the disabled, attended by some 3,200 athletes from 60 countries.

"If the law is passed, it will be like asking a blind athlete to compete with a seeing athlete," said one protester. "Who do you think will win?"

The crowd dispersed after a few minor scuffles with police, who stopped them marching to the Health Ministry. A spokesman said the group would try again on Wednesday.

"We don't want to disrupt the Paralympics," he said. "But this is the perfect opportunity to show that the disabled are still neglected here."

Today was the third day of the 8th International Paralympic Games for the disabled, and organisers said they hoped the timing of the demonstration would call attention to their plight.

The 300 protesters clapped, chanted "don't take our jobs" and other slogans from sheets printed in braille, and sat and squatted on the street with their arms around each other.



Blind men and women march through a Seoul street. (Reuters wirephoto)

## US reviewing ties with North Korea

WASHINGTON, Oct. 18. (AP): The United States is reviewing its policy towards North Korea with a view to a possible thaw in relations, US officials said.

The policy review will be discussed at the White House on Thursday between President Ronald Reagan and visiting South Korean President Roh Tae-woo, said State Department spokesman Charles Redman.

The reassessment grew out of recent talks between the North and the South, which have been estranged since the mid-1940s, and by the Pyongyang government's restraint during the 1988 Olympics in Seoul last month, Redman said.

The United States had warned North Korea against disrupting the Olympics, which Pyongyang sought to host jointly with the South. North Korea viewed the Games as granting international recognition to its arch rival.

Relations between Washing-

ton and Pyongyang have vacillated between complete cut-offs to limited links, depending on North Korean behaviour.

For example, in the spring of 1987, the United States authorised limited contacts between its officials and North Korean representatives, as well as easing some restrictions on visas for North Koreans.

But these concessions were revoked following allegations the North was to blame for the explosion of a South Korean airliner late last year in which all 115 people on board were killed.

Redman declined to predict whether the US review would result in improved relations, saying only "no decisions have been made."

But another official, who declined to be named, said improved ties would be the logical direction of a review since "relations couldn't get any worse than they are."

## Israel bans Last Temptation of Christ

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Oct. 18. (UPI): Israeli film censors have banned distribution of the controversial movie "The Last Temptation of Christ" saying it would offend Christians in the holy land and violate Israeli law.

"It's not that the film deals with some small aspects of Christianity," said Joshua Justman, chairman of the Israeli Film Censorship Board. "What is in the film deals with the very fundamental tenets of the Christian faith. This is no small matter."

The board voted 21-3 with two abstentions in prohibiting the distribution of "The Last Temptation of Christ," the controversial film by American director Martin Scorsese that has provoked outrage worldwide for its portrayal of Jesus.

The board's decision was believed to be the first time the Universal Pictures production has been banned since it opened Aug 12 in the United States to protests from outraged Christians, vows of support from movie directors and mixed reviews.

"My reaction is it is a scandal and a stupid act," said Ilan Devries, deputy director of Jerusalem's Cinematheque, a major Israeli moviehouse and cultural centre across the valley from the traditionally accepted site of The Last Supper.

Reporters asked Benigno whether Aquino was fully aware of all the details of the agreement when she authorised Manglapus to sign it.

"All the details, I don't think so," Benigno replied.

The agreement allows the

## Critics call for closing US bases

# Aquino defends accord

MANILA, Oct. 18. (AP): President Corason Aquino said today a new agreement on US military bases reaffirms "the enduring bilateral relationship" with Washington, but newspapers accused her government of a sellout by accepting far less than was demanded.

Critics warned the pact, signed on Monday in Washington by US Secretary of State George Shultz and Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus, will strengthen calls for closing the installations in 1991.

"The agreement reaffirms the enduring bilateral relationship between our respective countries and allows us to proceed to improve other aspects in that relationship," Aquino said in a statement to reporters.

The presidential palace did not comment on the agreement until more than 12 hours after it was signed. Earlier, Aquino's spokesman, Teodoro Benigno, said the president could not comment because she had not seen a signed copy of the agreement and did not "have a full grasp of what transpired" in Washington.

A banner headline on Tuesday of the People's Journal tonight said: "Bases deal disappointing." Cartoons in other dailies pictured Manglapus dancing with Shultz and a Filipino negotiator with a sack over his head next to a figure of Uncle Sam.

"Filipinos have good cause to believe that once more they have been suckered into a deal they knew little about," the Philippine daily Globe said.

The often contentious talks began on April 5. They broke off in July over differences in compensation but resumed one week

later. During the talks, Filipino officials leaked a steady stream of statements to reporters indicating that Manila would stand fast on its compensation demands.

The pact allows the United States to maintain its policy of neither confirming nor denying the presence of nuclear weapons and did not address Filipino demands for criminal jurisdiction and prior notification of military operations.

"He has sold out his country and grossly deceived his people," the national newspaper Malaya said of Manglapus. "For these treasonous acts, he ought never to show his face again in Manila."

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later. During the talks, Filipino officials leaked a steady stream of statements to reporters indicating that Manila would stand fast on its compensation demands.

Opposition

Sen. Ernesto Maceda, chairman of the Senate Defence Committee, said the agreement showed the government "is not ready yet to stand up to the Americans."

The Philippines constitution states that after 1991, any extension of the leases must be under a bilateral treaty ratified by two-thirds of the Philippine senate, where opposition to the installations is strong.

Former defence minister and critic of Aquino, Juan Ponce Enrile, said the senate would have to examine the provisions carefully.

"If such violation exists, that would be a slap to the Senate, considering that we have already approved a bill enforcing the non-nuclear provision of the constitution," he said.

Defence Minister Fidel Ramos implied that it was the best deal the Philippines could get after six months of tortuous negotiations. "We just have to make the best of what is available," he told reporters after addressing a seminar.

"There is never really enough, is there?"

## US President must visit South Asia

WASHINGTON, Oct. 18. (AP): The next American President should visit India, Pakistan and other South Asian countries early in his term, says an official of the Heritage Foundation, a conservative policy organisation.

It has been a decade since President Jimmy Carter's visit to India, and the growing importance of the subcontinent makes it vital to US interests that the next President go at least to India and Pakistan, said Kenneth Conboy of the private foundation's Asian studies centre. Top US officials should also visit Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, he added.

Although President Ronald Reagan visited neither India nor Pakistan, Conboy credited his administration with a "successful balancing act" of even-handed treatment of the two rivals and more attention to the region than previous US administrations.

US policy should seek further improvement of ties with India, "which has a middle class of consumers larger than the population of any European country," he said. The United States also should "build ties with the Indian armed forces and the growing Indian defence industry, which would increase American leverage through technical dependence," Conboy added.

## Move to topple military regime

# Burmese rebels form alliance

MANERPLAW, Burma, Oct. 18. (UPI): Burmese rebel leaders said today they have reached an agreement on a broad alliance bringing together dissident students, ethnic insurgents and communist guerrillas for the first time in hopes of toppling the military government.

The rebel leaders from the 10-member National Democratic Front also mapped out strategy for launching co-ordinated military attacks designed to keep the Burmese Army off balance.

"All opposition groups must unite to fight this regime," said Saw Morey, chairman of the 12-year-old National Democratic Front.

"Only if we are united can we overthrow the military regime," he said.

Saw Morey and the leaders or representatives of the 10 different groups have been meeting for the last five days at the jungle

headquarters of the Karen guerrilla group at Manerplaw, about 240 km northeast of Rangoon.

The rebel leaders said the talks would continue for several more days.

"So far we have not decided on the exact groups to be invited but we will have a conference to form this big alliance as soon as possible," said Saw Morey. "We plan to keep the door open as wide as possible."

The NDF president, also the leader of a Karen ethnic minority faction, said the groups had agreed to include the Burmese Communist Party even though many of the ethnic rebels dislike communist ideology.

Also to be included are the dissident students who led two months of demonstrations against the authoritarian regime in Rangoon.

About 8,000 of the students

have fled to the jungle headquarters of various rebel groups.

Also to be included in the new alliance is an exiled organisation associated with former Prime Minister U Nu, who was ousted in a 1962 military coup, and possibly opposition parties now active in Burma.

"This will be the first time all the anti-government forces get together," Saw Morey said. "Now the situation has changed so we can all co-operate and step up our struggle."

The Karen leader said the recent Army crackdown, on dissent that left more than 1,000 people dead has shown the world how brutal and unpopular the military government is.

The rebel leader said the alliance eventually could lead to the establishment of a provision government that could compete with the Rangoon regime for international recognition.

## Six civilians killed in Sri Lanka violence

COLOMBO, Oct. 18. (AP): Unidentified gunmen wearing military-style uniforms have killed six people in eastern Sri Lanka, an Army spokesman said today.

The official, who cannot be identified under briefing rules, said four Tamils and two Sinhalese men were shot and stabbed late last night in the village of Seyilyamadu, about 250 kilometres east of Colombo, the island's capital.

### Campaign

The official said the slayings could have been done by either militant Tamils fighting for a separate nation in the northeastern province or by extremist Sinhalese opposed to the government's peace overtures to the Tamil rebels.

Tamils, who are mostly Hindu, comprise 18 per cent of the island's 16 million people. Militant Tamils have been fighting since 1983 for an independent homeland in the northeast.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister

Ranasinghe Premadasa on Monday began his campaign for December's presidential elections with a visit to a Buddhist temple in the city of Kandy followed by a public meeting, residents said.

They said, in telephone interviews, that Premadasa, the presidential candidate of the ruling United National Party, called for an end to the ethnic strife on the island which has claimed at least 8,500 lives in the past five years.

Most Sri Lankan political leaders begin their campaigns at the Kandy temple, where a tooth believed to have been one of Lord Buddha's is on display.

Premadasa's main opponent, Sirimavo Bandaranaike, a former prime minister and leader of the opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party, began her campaign last week.

The polls will choose a successor to President Junius Jayewardene, who has said he will not seek re-election after his term expires in January, 1989.

## Rebels shoot at Sudanese airliner

KHARTOUM, Oct. 18. (UPI): Sudanese rebels shot at a Sudan Airways cargo plane, the second such attack in two months, Khartoum's independent Al Usbu daily said today.

The attack took place 640 km southeast of the town of Abyei, where small aircraft are delivering emergency supplies in a US Agency for International Development-sponsored airlift.

The paper said rebels of the Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) hit the aircraft Monday while it was landing at the airport of Juba, the main southern Sudanese town, 1,200 km south of Khartoum. It said the pilot managed to take the aircraft back again and return to the capital.

There was no immediate comment from the Sudanese authorities.

In a similar incident in early September, the SPLA shot at a privately-owned Boeing 707 flying more than 100 passengers and several tons of relief food into Juba.

The pilot of the Boeing managed to put it down safely.

The rebels have in the past repeatedly warned they would down any aircraft flying over the "warzone" of Southern Sudan.

In August 1986 they carried out their threat and downed a Sudan Airways airliner with a Sam missile, killing all 60 passengers and crew.

Relief workers say the threats have hampered efforts to deliver food to famine-ravaged Southern Sudan.

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# Commander says US 'did it right' in Gulf

MANAMA, Oct. 18. (AP): The United States has gained unprecedented credibility with Arab leaders as a result of its large-scale naval commitment in the Arabian Gulf, says the general who runs US military operations in the strategic oil waterway.

"This may be the first successful military application of a political objective that we've pulled off, perhaps, since Korea," said Gen. George B. Crist, referring to the US role in saving South Korea from a North Korean communist takeover in the early 1950s.

"The old thing about the military being an extension of the political ... well, we did it right this time."

The four-star Marine Corps officer, who retired next month as commander of US Central Command, is ending a farewell swing through the Middle East. In an interview aboard the US Navy's Gulf flagship, USS La Salle, based at Bahrain, he said:

—The United States has its strongest-ever relations with Arab states, who originally expected Washington to "cut and run" rather than become deeply involved in trying to forestall Iranian military moves in the Gulf.

—The Soviet Union, whose effort to establish a presence in the Gulf helped to spur the US decision, has recently bolstered its fleet and is "not showing any signs of withdrawal."

—The United States will continue to "ratchet down" its naval force if the Aug. 20 Iraq-Iran ceasefire holds, but Kuwait will decide when to remove the Stars and Stripes from 11 oil tankers refueled by the Reagan administration 17 months ago as

protection from Iranian attack.

Crist, 57, has been both a diplomat and a military officer during his three-year tenure at the Tampa, Florida-based Central Command, which began as a one-time "ready reaction force" and now administers US military affairs in 19 countries from North Africa to Pakistan.

This encompasses the Gulf, where danger to shipping from the eight-year Iraq-Iran war prompted last year's massive naval buildup by the United States and five European governments.

Crist said that commitment has enabled Washington to establish better diplomatic ties and "closer co-operation and coordination" militarily with Gulf Arab governments than ever before.

"We've moved mountains," he said. "They were absolutely convinced we were going to cut and run. We didn't." He added, in a parting comment without elaboration, "it was a near thing, though."

Most Arab states are officially cool toward the United States because of its pro-Israel stance, and rarely praise US policy. But Crist said Washington has managed to win new friends in the Gulf.

**Mines**

"They don't want the Russians in. They like the Americans. We're not colonial, we're not overbearing," he said. In working with Americans, he added, "They've gained a lot more confidence in their own capabilities that they didn't have before."

Crist said the mine threat is especially serious in the northern Gulf, where both belligerents

sowed mines. Other US officers have said there may be as many as 200 left.

Six US minesweepers were "probably the last capability" he would remove, Crist said, adding that with some European Navies already withdrawing theirs, "the big question" is whether the United States will wind up with the mine-clearing task.

However, that and many other crucial decisions on a US drawdown may fall to Army Lieut. Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, scheduled to succeed Crist at central command on Nov. 23.

**Mushroomed**

When the refueled convoys began, the Navy's Gulf-based Middle East Force included only the La Salle and four combatants. As the "tanker war" escalated, the US regional fleet mushroomed to as many as 40 ships. There currently are 26, including 10 in the Gulf.

Crist said the United States would never leave the Gulf entirely.

"We've been here since 1949, and as long as the Russians stay around, I don't think we're going to turn the keys to the storeroom over," he said.

He said the Soviets still keep seven to nine ships in the area and "are not showing any signs of withdrawal."

Indeed, he said Moscow recently signalled its apparent intention to maintain a large presence by deploying the 11,000-ton hospital ship OOB, fitted as a floating rest centre for Soviet sailors.

Although the Navy recently ended close escort, Crist said the ships will have "traditional protection" as long as Kuwait complies with US maritime and tax laws.

# Experts discuss afforestation

THE Higher Committee of Afforestation in co-operation with the Kuwait Sociologists Society sponsored a seminar on the role of social factors in preserving the architecture and afforestation projects in Kuwait.

Khalaf Al Shatti from the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Wealth said that authorities designated certain areas and squares to be converted into gardens in model housing areas.

HFH the Amir wants to start an expanded plan to afforest the desert and other lands. He called on authorities to undertake legislation that obliges owners to real estate to leave 10 per cent of land around the buildings to be planted and converted into internal gardens.

**Grasslands**

At the seminar Dr Faisal Tabar from the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) said that 90 per cent of Kuwait lands are considered natural grasslands and an important source of fodder and food for animals. These grasslands were damaged during the last few years which caused the disappearance of plants and animals.

He called for converting areas such as Jal Al Zour, Wadi Al Baten and Abdali deserts into

parks and for organising grasslands and protecting natural plants in the desert.

Dr Mohammed Usman from the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Wealth spoke about the importance of afforestation from a religious point of view. He said that the palm tree is considered the most important of trees in the Arab and Islamic countries. It was considered as a source of food for Arabs for many centuries, he said.

## More trees planted in Ahmadi

KUWAIT, Oct. 18. (KUNA): Celebrations of Afforestation Week in the Ahmadi Governorate continued today and more trees were planted.

Many trees were planted by students in the governorate's schools, roads, areas and roundabouts.

Officials from the Education Ministry, Kuwait Army and the governorate's students and their parents participated in the celebrations that started Saturday under the auspices of Ahmadi's Governor Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem.

## Norwegian minister leaves Iraq

BAGHDAD, Oct. 18. (KUNA): Norway's Minister of Defence Johan Joergen Holst and his accompanying delegation left here today after a three-day visit.

The Iraqi News Agency reported that Holst, in a statement prior to his departure, praised Iraq's position in its ongoing peace negotiations with Iran. He also said that this position is very important for the implementation of the Security Council Resolution 598.

Iran has agreed to the major Iraqi demand of dredging Shatt Al Arab waterway, which forms the southern Iraq-Iran border, as part of a four-point proposal by UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Holst thanked the Iraqi government for providing facilities for the UN troops, especially the Norwegian unit, serving with the UN observers force monitoring the ceasefire between Iraq and Iran.

Holst arrived here Saturday from Kuwait and he proceeded from here to Amman.

## KAC offering planes for rent

KUWAIT Airways Corp. (KAC) is renting some of its surplus planes to other airlines, according to KAC Chairman Ahmad Al Mishari.

The decision to offer some planes for rent was made due to economic stagnation, the Iraq war, a less active market with fewer travellers and reduced profits.

KAC had stopped their flights to Baghdad, Tehran, Abadan and Beirut because of the wars in these areas, he said.

Overheads for ground services, landing charges and the cost of fuel coupled with reduced passenger loads during winter made the move towards renting feasible, he added.

The profits of KAC as a result of this policy doubled in 1987-88 compared to previous years.

KAC agreed to rent some of their planes to Egyptian Airlines. The rental planes involved are Boeing 747s. They will be rented only during the winter season for two days a week. Maintenance of these rental planes is carried out by KAC.

The decision not to sell the planes is in accordance with the recommendations of a study made by the commercial sector of KAC which predicted passenger movement would pick up in the near future, the chairman added.

## Mitterrand will open KIO factory

PARIS, Oct. 18. (KUNA): French President Francois Mitterrand will inaugurate on Friday a factory for packaging dairy products belonging to Monoplast Company, which is completely owned by the Kuwaiti Investment Office (KIO) here.

Sources here said that the factory, which cost 70 million francs (\$11 million) to build, will employ about 650 workers. A sum of 100 million francs (\$15 million) has been earmarked for a two-year investment programme so that the factory will yield an annual profit of 300 million francs, the sources added.

The inauguration will also be attended by the Kuwaiti Ambassador to France Dr Tareq Rzaoui and officials of KIO and the Kuwaiti Embassy here.

The Kuwaiti-owned Monoplast also operates a similar factory in the French city of Mont de Marsan in the Landes province.

Both factories are capable of producing 15,000 tons of plastic annually which puts them ahead of other European factories in the same business.

Mitterrand's inauguration of the factory is interpreted as a sign of the French leadership's concern to foster and promote cooperation in investments with Kuwait.

## Robbery attempt reported at exchange company

A FUTILE attempt was made Sunday night to steal money from a money exchange company in Salmiya, according to a local daily.

The daily said that burglars broke into the offices of Abdul Aziz & Ali Al Youssef Al Muzaini by breaking the locks of the doors.

After moving the safe, the burglars were unable to open it to get the money.

Frustrated, they then burned documents and other property and damaged the company's computer.

The attempted robbery was discovered early Monday.

Police and investigators visited the scene and investigations are continuing.

## Agency highlights mujahedeen struggle

By Hamid Siddiqui

THE Agency Afghan Press Managing Director S.M.T. Wasti is visiting Kuwait to project his agency in the Kuwait mass media, saying the agency has made many new contacts.

Wasti told the Arab Times the agency organises photographic exhibitions and screening of films of Afghanistan. It also arranges talks by eminent speakers to highlight the struggle of the Afghan mujahedeen and the plight of Afghan refugees.

The agency was founded in Jan 1980, a few months after the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan and is based in London. Wasti said London was chosen for the agency's headquarters because "London is the centre of world media." The other reason, for basing the Afghan news agency in London was to avoid censorship in Pakistan, which was under the martial law.

The agency is covering its expenses through donations and contributions from the sympathisers of Afghan mujahedeen struggle, but Wasti said the agency is now facing financial difficulties.

He said that after the Geneva accord was signed in April 1987, people generally started thinking that the Afghan crisis was solved. "This is not only affecting us, but also the Afghan mujahedeen and



S.M.T. Wasti

the refugees," Wasti explained.

Wasti said the Afghan Agency Press recently published a book entitled "Afghanistan: A Chronology of Events." The work, he said, covers from April 1978 to December 1983 and records the events preceding the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. It also lists in the form of a journal the main incidents of the ensuing war.

Wasti said his agency has close contacts with most of the Afghan mujahedeen groups, both inside and outside Afghanistan, and hence its information sources are both "accurate and reliable."

## Sultan Qaboos discusses Oman's policy during war

WASHINGTON, Oct. 18. (KUNA): Sultan Qaboos of Oman said today that during the Iran-Iraq war "our strategy was to pour water on the fire, to calm things down."

In an interview with the Washington Times, Sultan Qaboos added, "We were trying to get the fire to die down and not spread. That was our strategy; to cool things down from a position of trying to help on both sides."

### Preserve

The Sultanate abhors the Strait of Hormuz, with dramatic, soaring cliffs to the west. According to the sultan: "Being on one side of the sensitive waterway — being a partner, so to speak, with Iran — we had to be very careful. It was a very delicate thing to do, to find a way always so that the

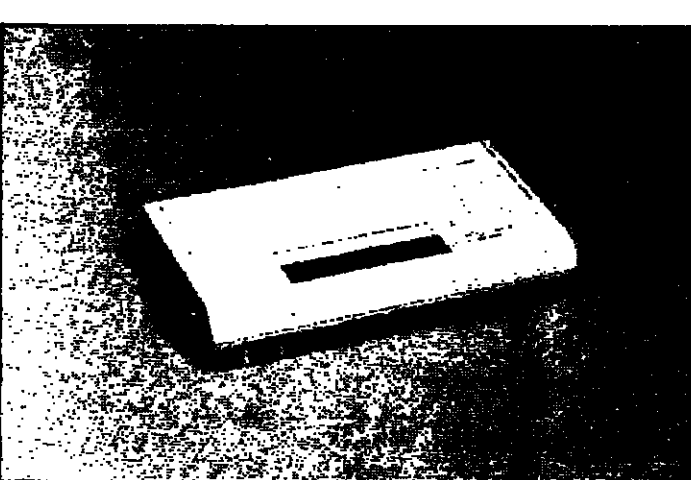
Strait of Hormuz was not blocked.

"We kept on talking to the Iranians, obviously to try to help them find a way to end the war, I say that because the Iraqis said for some time they would like to stop the war. In our talks with the Iraqis, we were trying to find a way...telling them not to isolate themselves from the rest of the world," he said.

### Contained

Asked about the American Naval forces' mission in the Arabian Gulf, he said, "Their presence there, as it was announced, was to preserve the peace and protect the shipping in the Gulf. I think to a certain extent that task was accomplished. Now, there will be no reason for the superpowers to remain in the

## Diconix Ink Jet Printer



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with minimal mechanical parts, the whole printer weighs less than 1.5 kg. It can be operated both with rechargeable batteries and mains, for which a charger/adaptor is provided.

The drop-in print-head includes a disposable ink cartridge, which can print up to 500 standard text pages. When the ink cartridge is replaced the consumer simultaneously gets a new print-head.

Diconix is fully compatible with EPSON/IBM and is available with parallel or serial interfaces. Diconix will be distributed by Emirates Photo Marketing, UAE (telephone 06-423751); Office Supplies, Oman (telephone 563202); Modern Library, Qatar (telephone 423230); and Ashraf Brothers, Bahrain (telephone 253416).

## Required-Secretary

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Ahmed Al Jaher Street, Sharq.

## 23 traffic accidents reported

THE Public Relations Department at the Ministry of Interior reported 23 traffic accidents in different areas of Kuwait yesterday.

Seven accidents occurred at the capital, one in Hawalli, 12 in Ahmadi and three in Jahra. One person was injured.

## Donations sought for new hospital

THE Embassy of Pakistan will receive donations for the construction of the Al Shafa Hospital, to be built in Rawalpindi. Donations will be accepted till Nov 7 on behalf of the M Shafa Trust.

Pakistanis are invited to take on the cost of a ward and to name it after their parents. The cost of constructing and equipping a ward is as follows: small ward, Rs 1 lakh; medium ward, Rs 2 lakhs and large ward Rs 5 lakhs.

## Milad gathering

BANGLADESH Association, Kuwait, will hold a Milad mahfil on Sunday, Oct. 23 at 4 p.m. in the Bangladesh Embassy premises, in Jahira. The Milad is to mark the Holy Prophet's birthday. All Bangladeshis are invited.

## Required: a good English-speaking maid for Playgroup.

Contact 2543508 from 4.30 to 8.00pm.

## BAHRAIN DIGEST

### Trade mission visits Bahrain

A TRADE mission representing the Australian Arab Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AACCI) visits Bahrain as part of a three-week tour of the Gulf.

This is the first national trade mission to be organised by AACCI, which is the only Australian Chamber of Commerce affiliated with the General Union of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture for Arab countries in Damascus.

Graham Lightfoot, national president of the AACCI, discussed the purpose of the mission's visit at a press conference held at the Regency Hotel. "This is primarily a good-will mission," he said. "We would like to promote Australia as a friendly and reliable trading partner to the Gulf. We hope to strengthen the existing ties between us and, of course, to make new relationships."

He said that Australia sells beef, sheep, wheat and barley in the Gulf. Foodstuffs and livestock account for 75 per cent of the total Australian exports to the Gulf. However, "the picture is changing," he said. The Australian government wants to promote the sale of manufacturing products to Gulf countries, he said.

According to Torsten M.H. Kelesien, the deputy leader of the mission, Australia is rapidly developing its manufacturing industries and hopes to increase its current 25 per cent sale of manufacturing products out of total Australian exports to the Gulf. Lightfoot was optimistic about the rise of Australian trade with the Gulf. He said that Saudi Arabia is Australia's major trading partner in the region and said he hopes that trade with the other GCC countries will increase soon.

According to the mission members Australia is exporting hi-tech know-how. In the area of telecommunications for instance, Australian Telecom recently secured the contract to manage the telephone system of Saudi Arabia.

An Australian company also has a contract to supply a non-military laser system as an aid to navigation. Australia plays a significant role in the agricultural sector throughout the Gulf, bringing their expertise and advanced technology in equipment and horticultural products, they said.

Australia has already made significant inroads in Bahrain, where the Australian construction company, Lightfoot, in joint venture with their UAE partners is the main contractor in the building of the Arabian Gulf University.

Commenting on the progress of Australian trade in the Gulf so far, Lightfoot said, "We are holding out. We expect 1988 to be just as good as 1987. In 1987 Australia exported 740 million Australian dollars worth of goods to the Gulf and imported goods worth 857 million dollars from the Gulf. With the current ceasefire in the Gulf war we hope things will pick up again and I'm sure we will increase our exports to the region in the near future."

Sarwat Maqidi, a member of the mission, said that there is a fair amount of Arab investment in Australia. A large number of Arab immigrants in Australia also help promote Arab investments in Australia, he added.

Lightfoot said Bahrain gave a warm welcome to the mission. "Bahrain is home to many Australian expatriates and it gives me particular pleasure to be leading this mission in our bi-centennial year and to start it in Bahrain," he said.

The mission will leave Bahrain today for Dammam, Jeddah, Riyadh, Kuwait, Muscat, Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

### The Stylistics to perform

THE Stylistics—one of the most popular pop groups of the 70s will bring back memories with such timeless classics as "I'm Still in Love With You," and "You're My Everything," with a one-night concert, Sunday, Bahrain's Hilton Hotel.

The group from Philadelphia is still going strong after nearly two decades of providing their special kind of music to millions of fans all over the world.

The Stylistics zoomed into prominence with their very first record in 1970, "You're a Big Girl Now", which became a top 10 soul hit. The group started as a soul group, but soon established themselves as versatile musicians by successfully performing rock and other types of popular music.

The band, featuring Russell Thompkins Jr., Airmen Love and Herbert Murrell, are best known for their soulful romantic melodies.

### Arab Child Day events set

BAHRAIN will celebrate Arab Child Day on Nov 15. Although some Gulf countries like the UAE, celebrated the occasion nearly two weeks ago, Bahrain has decided to postpone the celebration to ensure active involvement by school children.

"Our schools have just opened and we want to give time to students to prepare for the celebration," said Bahiya Al Jishi, head of the children's section at the General Organisation for Youth and Sport. She said a major festival will be held on Nov 15 at Sulmaniyah Garden. It will feature a charity bazaar proceeds of which will go to help Palestinian children.

Arts and crafts made by children will be on display and voluntary organisations will join the celebration by organising cultural shows and competitions for children.

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## VIDEO CORNER

## Moving story of Campbell's zest for speed

By Gail Seery

I HAVE not been able to avoid noticing that it is now nearly compulsory to start a film with a shot of a nice car burning along roads. In this case it's a mid-60s E-Type Jag, driven by Anthony Hopkins in his role as the late Duncan Campbell in *Across the Lake*. However, this is one of those rare films when it is acceptable, as the film tells the story of the last few months of Campbell's life, when he was attempting to break the world water speed record on Lake Windermere in 1966/67. He had wanted to be a fighter pilot, but had rheumatic fever, and ended up having to satisfy his zest for speed some other way. Hence the E-Type Jag and more importantly, Bluebird.

As soon as we are told that

Anthony Hopkins takes the lead, we know that this will be a fairly heavy film. It is also deeply moving, despite the music. Hopkins is a very gifted actor. Even his most basic movements are invested with meaning. He manages to convey the fact that he's returning to a special place so easily — by gazing at a photograph, by picking up a glass. He effortlessly slots into the role and stays there. This is a rare ability in modern films, when it is often more important who the actor is, than what the story is about. For the viewer, Hopkins is Duncan Campbell.

He has lost the world record, and is desperately trying to win it back, with an ever attendant press circus, and a circle of devoted retainers. He is dismissed as a failure by many, others

are frightened for him, but fundamentally, the only thing which motivates him is his thirst for speed, and for pushing Bluebird beyond the 300MPH mark.

However, the boat can only perform well in totally calm conditions, and a number of trials get nowhere due to mechanical problems. Even so they soldier on, but Campbell becomes more and more isolated and alone. He is not a young man anymore, and frequently suffers from severe back pains. His wife is a singer, and she leaves him because she is terrified at what will happen to him when he attempts the record.

Even if history had not already supplied the answer, the viewer could be in no doubt that Campbell will die in the

film. From the moment the film opens with its dull drizzle and cold, there is an undertone of sadness, which, as the film progresses, becomes increasingly ominous. Campbell is a suspicious man, and various premonitions tell him that he will die. Nevertheless he is determined. As Connie, the hotel landlady in the film tells a hostile reporter: "If he's so scared and he still goes on and does it, that's true courage."

He was doing well over 300 MPH when the boat flipped and disintegrated, a sad, but according to the film, inevitable end. Campbell was portrayed honestly as a proud man, in severe financial difficulties, and living on credit. He is portrayed as a cool-headed womaniser, who says at last, "Women always talk about love, but I

can honestly say that I don't know the meaning of the word." He is a selfish man, full of inherent self-contradictions, but Hopkins makes him totally real, and even, at times, a sympathetic character.

My only criticism of the film is that, the music frequently gets a little too much to bear, and I couldn't help musing that Campbell might have survived the attempt had someone in his support crew had the sense to shoot the orchestra, or at least the strings section.

Every time he takes the boat out this music starts. Now I have been around powerboats long enough to know that string orchestras and speed don't automatically go together. When he drives along the road, the music starts again. No wonder he gets depressed.

By Brian Hollis

MANY video buffs in Kuwait regularly complain that so many films are on the blacklist that their choice is very restricted. In fact this is not so — the only serious film producer on the blacklist is Paramount, and most of the blacklisted actors and directors are well past their peak. To prove a point, 17 of the top twenty best video renters in the USA at present are available in Kuwait, including a new one from Tom Berenger, star of *Platoon*. In *Someone to Watch Over Me* Berenger plays an ordinary cop from New York's Queens district, who is promoted to detective. As a first job he is assigned to the baby-sitter of a rich socialite (Claire) who has witnessed the murder of a friend, and is required to testify against the killer, who is still at large. At a cocktail party Claire is cornered by the murderer, who promises to kill her if she testifies against him. He then surrenders to the authorities. Berenger persuades Claire to do her duty and identify him nevertheless, and this she does, only to find that he is released the same day on a technicality — Berenger forgot to caution him when making the arrest. With Claire's life more in danger than ever, Berenger is becoming more and more attracted to her as well as guilty about her plight. Meanwhile,

## Some of the top 20 videos

his wife is getting suspicious and finally confronts her husband. His decision is made more difficult by the reappearance of the killer out to eliminate the witness. *Someone to Watch Over Me* is as much a romantic drama as a thriller, with the forced togetherness of the rich socialite and down-to-earth cop as a clever plot device which keeps the pot boiling.

If George A. Romero is not very well known as a director in Kuwait, it is because most of his films are on the blacklist. Romero directs exclusively horror movies of which the most famous are the banned *Night of the Living Dead* and *Zombies*. When I started watching *Monkey Shines* therefore, I was surprised to see that he was directing a film about teaching monkeys how to help paraplegics. As the film developed, however, it was apparent that something more sinister was happening. The monkey in question had become totally faithful to the paralysed and wheelchair ridden patient. He, meanwhile, was getting very upset about his ex-girlfriend who was now going out with his doctor, and the intelligent monkey soon takes the hint. If you ever watched *Ben or Willard*, you will

know what to expect. The film is a rather unusual suspense, which builds well after a slow start, and except for the very end, is quite plausible.

*Intrigue* is a new spy thriller starring Scott Glenn as a CIA operative sent to the East bloc to bring out an American who previously defected, but now wants to return to the West. The American apparently has some vital information which could affect the arms limitation talks in Geneva. When Glenn finds the KGB hot on his trail after he has successfully escorted his prize as far as Venice, he begins to get suspicious, and when his own people tell him to get rid of his charge, he determines to find out what the information can be. There are various subplots involving beautiful female spies, and the scenery of Yugoslavia and Venice makes a pleasant change from New York and L.A.

*Lady in White* is an appealing ghost story with a difference. A young teenager is locked in a country school cloakroom as a prank on Halloween and, dozing off, witnesses the murder of a young girl. Later on a man enters the room, and tries to murder the boy, but luckily help arrives in the nick of time. The boy later finds out that the

girl was one of ten young people who have been murdered in the area recently, and she reappears regularly in his dreams, asking him to help her find her mother. Gradually the gruesome past begins to fit together and, of course, the murderer's identity is finally revealed. Not very scary, perhaps, but quite a good murder mystery.

*Abigail's Party* by Mike Leigh, has become something of a classic since it was first performed at Hampstead theatre. Alison Steadman, who also plays in the excellent TV version, won two best actress awards for her portrayal of the bored bitchy hostess, in this savagely funny study of pretentious middle class social manners. The play starts as an hilarious piece of observation, but ends up with shocking results. A must for anyone who likes something with a bit of bite.

*21 Jump Street* is a new American crime story about a band of rookie cops with headquarters in an abandoned chapel at 21 Jump St. who pose as students in order to infiltrate the world of teenage crime. American bestsellers are in short supply at the moment,



Tom Berenger and Mimi Rogers in *Someone to Watch Over Me*

but there's a choice of two British mini-series — *Echoes*, based on the novel by Mae Binshey, or *The Four Minute Mile*, which tells the story of how Roger Bannister became the first man to break this barrier.

American football NFL is now being released regularly and there are plenty of new cartoons for children, including *Macron 1*, a new *Tintin* adventure and more stories of *Scoby-Doo*.

The above films are by courtesy of VFI Fintae/Farwaniya; Video Nauli, Salmiya, Tel: 2432889; and at the Video Club, Salmiya, Tel: 5724372.

## TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

## KTV 1

## MORNING

- 9.00 Holy Quran
- 9.10 Good Morning
- 9.15 Dabdoob Al Musiqar cartoon serial
- 10.00 Abul Fuloos: local serial
- 10.45 News Summary followed by music
- 11.00 Al Zankalooni: Arabic serial
- 12.00 News
- 12.15 The Magic of David Copperfield
- 1.00 News
- 1.05 World Today Via Satellite/Closedown

## EVENING

- 4.00 Holy Quran
- 4.15 World News Via Satellite
- 4.45 Ra'ad Al Amlaq: cartoon serial
- 5.15 Cartoons
- 5.30 Songs and Music
- 6.00 La Ilaaha Illallah: religious serial
- 7.00 News Summary
- 7.25 Afaq Al Fann: focus on art, presented by Abdul Rasool Salman
- 7.50 Baytanna: local programme



● Michele Greene plays the stodgy lawyer Abby Perkins in L.A. Law, tonight at 10.30 pm, KTV 2

- 8.30 Good Evening
- 9.00 News
- 9.45 Variety Show
- 10.45 From A-Z: Variety Show, hosted by Tariq Habib. Guests are Sayyed Makuwi
- 11.45 News Summary
- 11.50 World Today Via Satellite: Holy Quran/Closedown

## KTV 2

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 My Pet Monster: cartoon serial
- 6.30 Wonderstruck: a look at sound effects and the development

of discs  
7.00 Pals: "Lost." Oscar helps an injured woman but misses an appointment with his son

7.30 Growing Pains: a colleague is impressed by psychiatric treatment given by Seaver to patient

8.00 News in English

8.40 Probe: detective series with Mickey and Austin, who agree to apply new gimmicks to play an old trade

9.30 The Secret World: Sharks — reality and legends

10.00 What's Happening Now: A dental clinic becomes a venue of a romantic encounter which comes under threat when the dentist proceeds to do his job

10.30 L.A. Law  
11.30 News Summary  
11.40 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.



● The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps A.C.H. Mohammad on Monday hosted a reception for the outgoing Bahraini Ambassador Abdulaziz A. Bu-Ali at the Holiday Inn Hotel. A large number of diplomats attended. The Dean, who is the Sri Lankan Ambassador to Kuwait, presented a commemorative plaque to the Bahraini envoy. Above: Indian Charge d'Al-taires Atish Sinha shaking hands with Bu Ali as the host (centre) looks on.

## WHAT'S ON

## ARTS

**Kuwait Science Museum**  
DAILY: 5 pm onwards: natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Friday: 9 am onwards.

**Islamic Arts Museum**  
SAT - THURS: 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 4.30 to 7.30 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment. Arabian Gulf St.

**Tareq Rajab Museum**  
SAT - THURS: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm; Fridays: 9 am to 12 noon. Collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world.

**Sadu House**  
SAT - THURS: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts — rug, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

## THEATRE

**IAC**  
OCT 22: 7.30 pm. IAC. Fun-aites. The Indian community will present a one-act comedy. Sunita Sawari, to celebrate Dushehra. The play will be followed by dinner. Open for members and their guests. For details phone 390-4817.

**Bengali Play**  
OCT 27/28: 6.30 pm. Mousetrap Theatre. The Mou-chak Group, a Bangladeshi theatre company, presents "Bullay Purer Rupkatha, a fairy tale. For reservations phone A. Karim - 2627643; Dr Hyder - 5625456; Heron - 4893424.

**KLT**  
OCT 31 - NOV 3: KLT's comedy. Two and Two Make Six, directed by Steve Prescott. Gala show with dinner at 8 pm on Oct 31. Subsequent shows at

8.15 pm on Nov 1/2/3. Tickets — KD3. For reservations ring 3983724 after 6.30 pm.

**Bob Marley Night**  
NOV 4: SAS Tent. 7.30 to 9.30 pm. Steve Michael and The Electric Rendezvous will be seeking to recreate the spirit of Jamaica, with a tribute to Bob Marley, the king of reggae.

## CINEMA

## Cine Club

OCT 19: Cine Club Diwan-ia, held every Wednesday at 6.30 pm. This week's film is "Kiss of the Spider Woman", directed by Hector Babenco, featuring William Hurt and Raul Julia. Nominated for four Oscars. Screenings start at 7 pm at the Cine Club premises, Bneid Al Qar, behind Indian embassy.

## MUSIC

## Guitar Recital

OCT 19: Kuwait Hilton Hotel: Concert of German guitarist and composer Wolfgang Condin. "Hymns of Eternity," one of Condin's most significant compositions will be featured in his concert along with works by J.S. Bach and H. Villa-Lobos. Tickets are available from the Hilton lobby.

**Mousetrap Theatre**  
OCT 19/20: Mousetrap Theatre, 8 pm: a piano recital by Thalia Myers. The pianist will also conduct a master class for experienced musicians and amateurs on Oct 18 from 4 - 6 pm. Tickets for the concert available from New English School, 8 am to 1 pm, 4 - 6 pm. Tel: 5318060; 5318061.

**Sounds Great**  
OCT 19-22: Sounds Great Pop-Rock Musical at the Salmiya Cinema from Oct 19 - 22. Reservations by ringing 5740256/7: 5756888/5758060 ext 263. Tickets also available from the box office nightly from 5 - 9 pm.

**David McArthur Recital**  
OCT 31: 8 pm. Mousetrap

**Theatre, Jabriya:** British pianist David McArthur will give a recital as part of his third annual Gulf tour. For details contact 2469348/2441746/240-2287.

## SOCIAL

## Kuwait Caledonians

OCT 19: 7.30 pm. Caledonians hold their annual general meeting at the Messilah Beach Hotel; business meeting only. Saint Andrews night will be on November 24 at Messilah Beach Hotel. For further details, telephone 5335082, or 3727691 ext 253.

## Colva Nite

OCT 27: 8.30 pm. Messilah Beach Hotel: Colva Nite with music by the Top Ranks. For details phone 2434776; 2413884; 4310913; 5629141 (after 5 pm)

## SPORTS

**BP 2000 Trophy Rally**  
CALLING ALL MAR-

**SHALLS** willing to help in 4x4 rally on Friday. Last meeting will be at 7.30 pm at Messilah Beach Hotel on Wednesday. Marshals kits and souvenirs will be provided. For details contact Debbie at Messilah Beach Hotel rally office.

## Ahmadi Kart Racing

OCT 21: Kart racing at Ahmadi KOC kart track; starts at 1.30 pm. Gates open to spectators at 1 pm. All are welcome. For details contact Simon Lloyd — Tel: 3980876.

**BA Cricket Weekend**  
BA and Hubara cricketers present two cricket matches involving ex-test players Farokh Engineer (India) and Don Wilson (England).

OCT 21: 9.30 am: Ahmadi Select XI will play the BA touring side.

OCT 23: 10.30 am: there will be a BA vs Great Britain match. Both matches will be 45 overs-a-side at the New Ground, Ahmadi. Admission is free, all are welcome.

## CINEMA TODAY

**Al Andalus**  
Mines of Kilimanjaro  
Starring: Christopher Connolly, Elaine Jones

**Al Hamra**  
Arbab Sawabiq (Arabic)  
Starring: Samir Ghanem, Dalal Abdul Aziz

**Drive-In**  
Ighthal Madrasah (Arabic)  
Starring: Nabila Obaid, Sabireen, Hisham Salim, Salah Qabil

**Al Firdous**  
Kanwarial (Hindi)  
Starring: Jeetendra, Sujatha Mehta

**Fahsheel Open-Air**  
Aaj Ke Angarey (Hindi)  
Starring: Hemant Birje, Archana Pura Singh

**Al Fahsheel**  
Nahar Al Khauf (Arabic)

**Al Salmiya**  
Hell Camp  
Starring: Lisa Eckhart

**Al Jahra**  
Inner Space  
Granada

**Al Kamasha (Arabic)**  
Salaibikhat  
Roller Bogie

**Al Jleeb**  
The New Kids  
Ahmadi Drive-In

**Khittah Al Shaitan (Arabic)**

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Matafi St.

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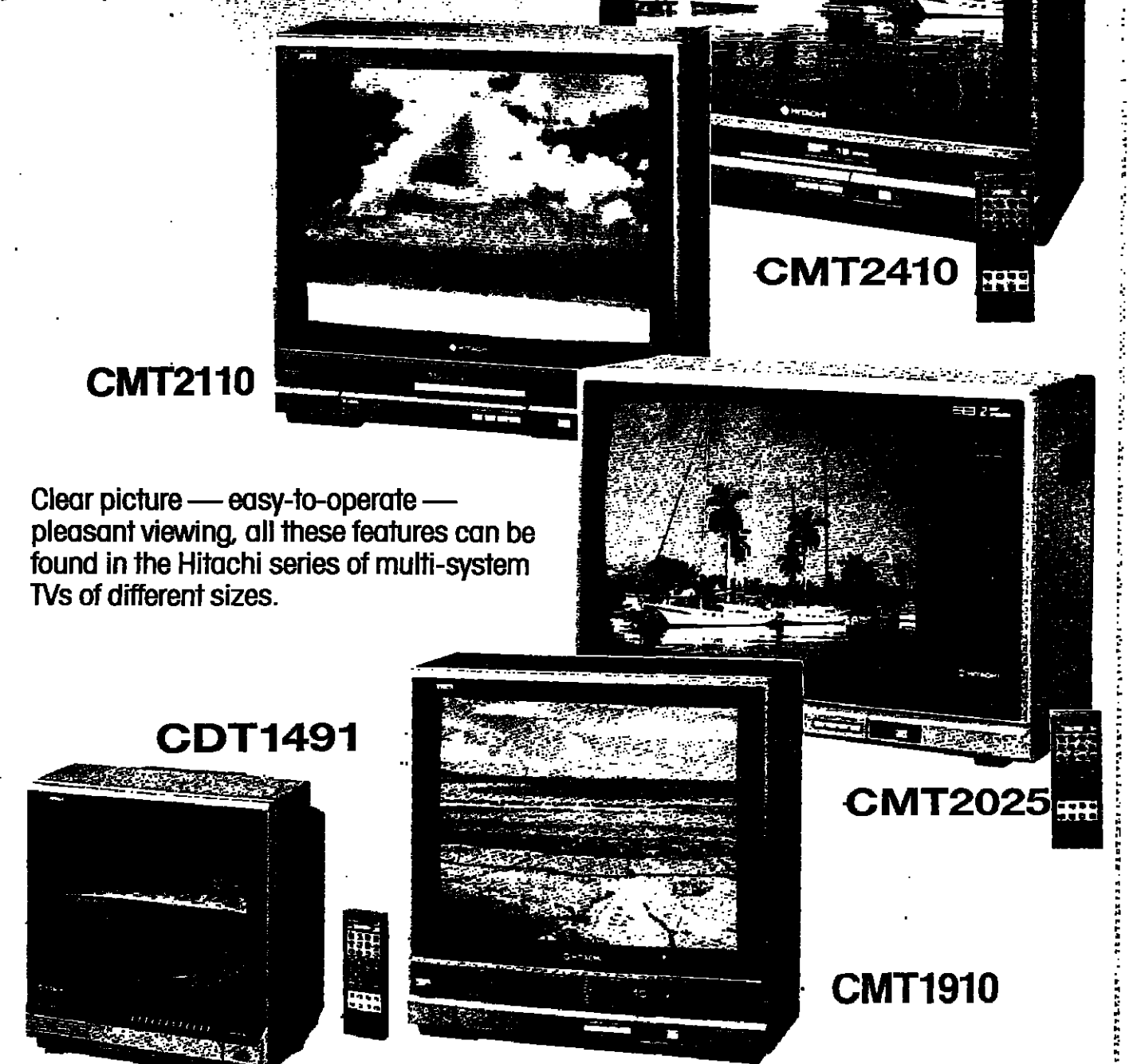
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tel. 3918083

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# ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

ONLY parents' love can last our lives — Robert Browning, English poet (1812-1889).

## OPINION

### Tehran's positive decisions make one feel comfortable

IMPORTANT positive indications have recently come out of Iran, including the Rafsanjani "oil" statement and the statement of the Iranian foreign minister about King Fahd's call during the conference of the OIC information ministers last week in Jeddah.

These are really positive signs. Iran wants to restore ties with Saudi Arabia and to co-operate with the Gulf states to prevent any collapse in the oil prices. Such wise signs make one feel comfortable about the fact that the Iranian leadership is now looking more united and strong in its decisions. This is what Iran lacked in the past and what the states in the region needed. After all, Iran is a neighbouring country, and no one can change this geographic fact. Besides, this region is rich in its resources and can have huge returns if funds are invested in the best way to benefit the people of the regions.

Such positive indications carried by the media in Iran and from its leadership have created the atmosphere that the region has been looking for.

We are now looking for a quick end to the Iraq-Iran peace negotiations. We hope that the negotiations achieve a lasting peace and restore bridges of co-operation between the countries of this region.

In the same way we look to Iran as a neighbouring country with which we can co-operate, we also feel that the Iranian people and their leadership are willing to re-establish the old links, particularly with the Iraqi people, who always kept their country's border open to Iranians.

The statements by Rafsanjani about the oil issue and other statements about King Fahd and the initiative by other Iranian officials indicate a relaxation in the Iran-Gulf relations. We praise and encourage such positive signs to reflect on the Iraq-Iran negotiations.

It should be realised that all want stability for Iran, and want Iran to continue to enjoy the political leadership that acknowledges that international relations have basis and traditions that must be respected to avoid isolation. We have to co-operate with this world to prevent our interests from being used and exploited by it.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

### Despite the warplanes

## A sense of quiet prevails in Kabul

By Earleen Fisher

KABUL, (AP): In the bustling markets that line the dusty, winding alleys and the dried up Kabul river, war seems far away until one looks up at the clear, sunny sky.

Then the machines of war are visible: helicopters inside the perimeter of mountains whose ridges are lined with radar installations and boxy little outposts of Afghan and Soviet armed forces; attack jets, and big military transport planes dropping flares designed to divert heat-seeking missiles.

The guerrillas battling the Soviet troops and the forces of Afghanistan's Soviet-backed government are in the mountains, just beyond the ridges that surround Kabul.

Most days at least a few rockets are launched at the capital, usually landing at random on homes, streets and sometimes in or near a military installation.

### Bunker

"We don't know when or where they will come," said a young civil servant who recently returned from Russian and English studies in the Soviet Union. "They can kill you. They can kill someone else."

Five people died Oct 10 in one of the most recent rocket attacks on the capital.

Soviet and Afghan troops man concrete bunker checkpoints on the outskirts of the city, and there are Afghan checkpoints scattered closer to the centre.

But there's little feeling of imminent disaster in the market-places where men in brown robes and white turbans sit cross-legged on the ground.

In front of them are piles of purplish-black onions, ripe red tomatoes, and big, oblong melons that are yellow and wrinkled on the outside but sweet, white and juicy on the inside.

A one-legged man on crutches sells gaudily coloured ski-pant-style long underwear in anticipation of winter in this city, where nighttime temperatures are already nippy.

A Kabul University student wheels his bicycle along the pot-holed lanes, his 7-year-old daughter seated on the crossbar.

"There is so much fighting," he said to a Western visitor. "The Soviets must leave our country."

The Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan began four months ago, and the remaining 50,000 to 60,000 Soviet soldiers are scheduled to be out by Feb 15, 1989, under a United Nations-mediated agreement signed in Geneva last April.

### Withdrawal

The student spoke in English he said he had learned from classes at the American Cultural Centre. Those classes ended after the Soviet Union dispatched troops to Afghanistan in 1979 to support a fellow communist government under guerrilla attack.

But he said he had managed to keep up his English because some of his textbooks were in English, even when some of his professors were Soviets.

"The Russians in my faculty (department) are gone now," he said, "but we have Bulgarians."

At the Kabul zoo, packs of small boys, a few families and turbaned Tajik tribesmen who have just arrived from the province of Jawzjan near the border with the Soviet Union, wander around the dusty park. They stare at cages of brightly-plumed birds, silky-coated rabbits and a weary-looking elephant.

### Intrigued

The small boys, with an impish ringleader named Shakila, were more intrigued by the lone foreigner in the zoo than by the families.

When they learned the foreigner was American, not Soviet, they led the way to the enclosure of a Russian brown bear. Giggling and pointing at the shaggy beast, they chanted "sharabi, sharabi" — the Dari word for "Soviet."

The crowd thinned out with the approach of a man in a thick gray-green woolen uniform and a snub-nosed Soviet-designed pistol tucked into his waistband.

He identified himself as Habib, a veterinarian and a member of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan that was dominated the government for the last decade.

### The new generation is more pragmatic

## Young Israeli politicians shed pioneer mystique

By Allan Fisher

TEL AVIV, Israel, (AP): Clad in pin-striped shirts and boasting an array of academic degrees, Israel's new "yuppie" politicians have traded the rough-and-tumble Moshe Dayan style for a more image-conscious Western approach.

The new generation running in the Nov 1 elections has a varied background. It includes sons of leaders and lawyers, as well as offspring of North African immigrants from poor backgrounds.

Among them are men with well-known names like Benjamin Begin, son of former Prime Minister Menachem Begin, and lesser-known figures like Yossi Beilin, who gained experience as an aide to Labour Party leader and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

The next-in-line leaders in both parties share several traits: for one, they are more pragmatic than their ideology-bound predecessors about Israel's biggest problem: the Palestine issue.

They have also parted with the old world manners and casual, open-shirt dress of the first-gen-

eration Israeli politician. "We don't kiss a lady's hand like our mentors did," said Roni Milo, 39, a rising star with the right-wing Likud Bloc, alluding to the sometimes courtly behaviour of the Polish-born Begin, founder of the Likud.

### Pragmatic

Milo is a Sabra, or Israeli-born Jew, and he said "we're more direct, Sabra style, and more pragmatic."

"We young people are more capable of growing accustomed to new conditions," Milo added, flashing a boyish smile in an interview at Likud's 14-story headquarters in Tel Aviv.

Milo's background is typical of many politicians his age of European descent. A lawyer who began climbing the party ranks in student government at Tel Aviv University, he inherited hawkish political beliefs from parents who fought the British in Begin's Irgun underground.

His career flourished after he won a seat in parliament in 1977 with a Likud victory in national elections.

A second young Likud deputy with leadership potential is Ehud Olmert, 42, also a lawyer who

despite his hard line on the Arab-Israeli conflict, has held a series of quiet meetings with Palestinians from the occupied territories.

"We are the ones pushing things forward," Olmert said of himself and his generation in Likud. "Yes, we're against the PLO, but we know we have to strike an agreement with the Palestinians."

### Leader

Benjamin "Benny" Begin, son of the former right-wing prime minister, also is a likely new leader in the Likud. But he insists he can't be expected to fill his father's shoes. "People like him are born very rarely," he said.

Unlike the young politicians in Likud, most of the dozen or so new faces in the ranks of the rival Labour Party will be taking a seat in parliament for their first time after next month's vote.

But although they lack legislative experience, some of the newcomers already have considerable influence.

Beilin, 40, is a former cabinet secretary with a doctorate in political science who became an adviser to Peres a decade ago and

has helped him shape his foreign policy.

Despite his clean-cut appearance, the mild-mannered, bespectacled Beilin exhibits traits reminiscent of a 1960s American peace activist.

His office wall is decked with posters denouncing apartheid in South Africa, a remnant of his push last year for the cabinet's decision to curtail commercial and military ties with Pretoria.

Beilin is also decidedly more moderate than Peres toward the Palestinians, saying, "I am willing to speak to the PLO provided that it meets conditions" of recognising Israel and formally declaring a ban on terrorism.

Israel's government objects to any dialogue with the PLO. Another fresh face in Labour, Avraham Burg, 33, is the son of Yosef Burg, who was religious affairs minister and the longest-serving member of Israel's Knesset, or parliament, until he retired last year.

The younger Burg, also a former adviser to Peres, insists his father had nothing to do with his decision to enter politics. Instead, it was opposition to Israel's three-year war in Lebanon that

got him interested.

Though injured in parachute training in 1979, Burg fought voluntarily with his unit in Lebanon in 1982, then became leading opponent of Israel's Lebanon conflict.

"The war completely changed my plans. It was wrong. It was a turning point for me," Burg said, munching a carrot. "I never thought before of being a politician."

### Plans

"But then I thought, 'we are a society undergoing many processes, some of them difficult, incorrect, fatal. Either you bury your head deep in the sand or you try to do something.'"

Burg, the spokesman for Labour's campaign, is religiously observant like his father. He says resolving the Palestinian uprising in the disputed West Bank and Gaza Strip is one of Israel's main necessities.

"The occupation corrupts us. This is a tough process the Israeli population is going through. The main moral issue is ending the occupation and finding a solution."

The other pattern of develop-

Likud is comprised of the small-town mayors, mostly of Sephardi origin, who now have prominent places on both parties' slates. Moroccan-born Eli Dayan, 38, the mayor of Ashkelon, is an example from Labour.

Dayan, who is not related to the late Israeli war hero, told reporters recently that he saw his achievement as a boost to the nation's disadvantaged development towns that are home mostly to Middle Eastern or North African Jews.

"At one time these parties were closed to the people from these towns," he said. "Now we can be candidates for the Knesset."

Some Israeli analysts are critical of the new generation politicians, believing them willing to compromise and lacking in the ideological vision of the country's founders.

"They're all the same, whether in Labour or Likud, yuppies and opportunists," said Gabi Sheffer, a political scientist at Hebrew University in the occupied Jerusalem. "They're the product of growing materialism in Israeli society, they reflect the less idealistic society we have become."

## WAYS TO ENJOY ELECTION '88



## Soviets open their most notorious closed city

By Gerald Nadler

VLADIVOSTOK, USSR (UPI): A former American diplomat has one word for the mentality that kept one of the world's potentially great cities sealed off to foreigners for 55 years — "madness."

This city could have contributed to the Soviet Union as an economic power in the Pacific," said Robert White, former US ambassador to El Salvador. "It was kept closed by a closed mind — a closed military mind."

But it may not stay closed. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev wants to plug this headquarters of his Pacific fleet into the burgeoning Asian economy. As a first move, he opened it recently to 107 foreign scholars, diplomats and public figures from 35 nations for a three-day conference.

"I hope if there was one message at the conference, it was that it was madness to have Vladivostok a closed city," White said. "But the idea that you could have a closed base within a totally open city was completely beyond them."

### Window

Gorbachev said in Vladivostok itself two years ago he wanted to make the Siberian port, a majestic city on the Sea of Japan, his "window opened wide on the East." Since then the military has begun — grudgingly — to come around.

"I would be a renegade of the Soviet armed forces to deny that disagreements have taken place," said retired Rear Admiral Nikolai Amelko, 76, who was allowed to speak his piece at the conference.

"Even though there have been some difficulties in the way of opening Vladivostok, the decision came through, and Vladivostok has been opened," said Amelko, who commanded the Pacific Fleet for 14 years.

Vladivostok — the largest urban centre in the Soviet Far East, whose name translates as "ruler of the East" — was declared a "fortress city" by Josef Stalin in 1933. The decree kept the city off limits not only to foreigners but to Russians without special passes or permission.

This autumn, however, a Soviet ruling opened the entire

maritime region and its administrative centre, Vladivostok, to Soviet citizens. The recent conference was a step toward unlocking the city to foreigners.

"We are not accustomed to such a phenomenon as living in an open port," said Alexander Shumakov, 63, a local teacher of English. "For years, we lived in a cage."

### Free

"I thought then, and think now, that being free is much more desirable than living in a closed society."

Vladivostok, its population now grown to 615,000, runs downhill into the Pacific, its hills reminiscent of San Francisco. Its bracing air is a world away from Moscow's stagnant atmosphere. Small and seemingly identical hilltops called "sobkas" frame the port.

The city clusters on a promontory jutting into the sea. Its chief bay is called the Golden Horn (Zolotoy Rog) — "just like Istanbul," local guides say.

"Oh, it's a beautiful port, a beautiful port, though a bit shallow," said an American diplomat who was at the conference.

There are actually two ports — one, headquarters of the Far East Shipping Company, for commerce; the other, focus for the Soviet Far East fishing fleet, for fishing. Yellow, green and blue booms pluck cargoes from red-hulled freighters in the commercial port.

The fishermen provide 40 per cent of the Soviet Union's catch. But the commercial port, currently handling 7.5 million tons of freight year, is working far below capacity.

### Gateway

Vladivostok is the gateway of the maritime territory, the Primorye, a region 2.5 times the size of Texas with one-eighth as many people — only 2.2 million. Gorbachev wants "free enterprise zones" and business incentives to lure powerhouses like Japan, South Korea and Singapore to develop it.

Primorye itself is part of the Soviet Far East, 10 times as big as Texas and half as densely populated, with only 8 million people. Yet despite bonuses that can double a European Russian salary, three out of every four workers who come out to the

region later go back home.

Primorye's potential wealth is overwhelming. More than 18 million cubic metres of timber can be cut each year. Coal is so close to the surface that open-cast mines are the rule. Other minerals abound — 80 per cent of the country's fluorite reserves are in Primorye.

In 1960, the story goes, Nikita Khrushchev was so struck by the city's beauty, cleanliness and its magnificent panorama of hills, forest and ocean that he instantly cancelled Siberian "hardship" bonuses for Vladivostok residents.

### Payment

"You are living here in a resort," he said, according to the tale. The payments were restored when Khrushchev was ousted.

"I am in favour, of course, of opening the city," said Pavel Litvinov, 45, a retired captain against the blue Amurskiy Bay and the diving boards where Olympic athletes train.

"More foreign investment will mean more money will stay in the city," said Mironov, a builder and father of two. "And my children will live better."

Marina Loboda, 32, a reporter for Primorye radio, said opening the region to foreign business will bring a higher standard of living, and "we want to have a higher standard of living."

But some locals don't like the idea of foreigners intruding. "It will complicate our lives," said Natalya Sonina, 33, a waitress.

### Problems

One of Vladivostok's problems is simply getting there. By air, it is eight hours and seven time zones from Moscow.

It is eight days by trans-Siberian railroad, the world's longest rail line — but as if to bridge the distance, Vladivostok's blue station is an exact copy of Yaroslavl station on the Moscow end.

A foreigner on the Trans-Siberian could get no further than Khabarovsk, 500 miles (800 km) north of Vladivostok. From there one could take another train to the Pacific port of Nakhodka and a ferry to Yokohama, Japan. Or one could fly to Nigata, Japan, or just turn around and take the train back to Moscow.

What a foreigner could not do was go south to Vladivostok.

## Swiss Army to re-equip its cycling troops

By Michael Shields

BERNE, (Reuters): The Swiss Army is preparing to re-equip its unique cycling troops with modern fighting bikes.

In a deal worth around 10 million Swiss francs (\$6.3 million), the trusty models first introduced in 1905 will be replaced by modern machines for Switzerland's three bicycle regiments to ride into battle in the 1990s and beyond.

Other armies may smicker, but Switzerland has no intention of scraping the vehicles known popularly as "metal mules."

Swiss military bicycles provide transport for around 3,300 soldiers stationed in the plain stretching between Lake Constance and Lake Geneva.

### Difficult

"Bicycles are quick and quiet," said Army spokesman Colonel J. Peter Flueckiger. "A truck or car makes noise that you can hear from afar, especially at night."

Troops on bikes can also roll short notice across tough terrain, operate without fuel, and spread out quickly, making them a difficult target for aircraft, he said.

Other armies may use bicycles for messengers or routine patrols, but Switzerland is believed to be the only country to use them as an integral part of its defence strategy.

Three prototypes, made by three Swiss firms, meet the tough standards laid down by the Army, and are about to undergo field tests. They must have two gears, carry at least 150 kg (330 pounds), weigh around 22 kg (48 pounds) and cost less than 1,400 Swiss francs (\$885).

### Overtaking

Soldiers in the bicycle regiments keep their vehicles and guns at home, ready to roll out to meet any emergency. Even though fully-equipped troops carry around 80 kg (175 pounds) of equipment, the Army figures they are quicker to mobilise than motorised troops over distances up to 40 km (25 miles).

An Army handbook said bike-mounted and motorised troops work together.

"The motorised troops follow the bicycle troops, leaping from cover to cover, but overtaking the bicycle riders should be avoided for technical and psy-

chological reasons," it says.

Most of the 500 soldiers who join the bike troops each year are volunteers, many of them top athletes whose conditioning helps them to meet the physical demands of their duty.

"You are proud to be a part of the troops," Flueckiger said. "If you come to active duty without training, you are not going to make it."

Fully-laden bicycle soldiers have to pedal as much as 200 km (125 miles) a day during training, he said, and must leave the regiments when they turn 32 years old.

"You still see lots of people in their 50s and 60s who have their old military bikes that they ride to work or to their gardens," said Flueckiger.

He declined to say whether the new bikes will be around as long as their hardy predecessors. "I will not make any prediction of what will happen in 80 years," he said. "But they will certainly be around for the next few decades, or else we would not be making this investment. Nobody is talking about getting rid of them."

## TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1768 — Turkey declares war on Russia to defend Polish liberties.
- 1781 — British troops under Cornwallis capitulate at Yorktown, Virginia, as American revolutionary war nears end.
- 1812 — Napoleon Bonaparte begins retreat from Moscow.
- 1912 — Bulgarians begin siege of Turkish city of Adrianople in Balkan war.
- 1915 — Japan signs treaty of London.
- 1921 — Revolution in Lisbon.
- 1925 — Italy completes occupation of Italian Somaliland.
- 1935 — League of Nations imposes sanctions against Italy.
- 1944 — US troops land in Philippines in World War II.
- 1957 — West Germany severs relations with Yugoslavia.
- 1960 — United States places embargo on shipments to Cuba.
- 1962 — Fighting erupts between Indian and Chinese troops on two fronts on the disputed Himalayan border between India and China.
- 1973 — Libya, angered by United States' Middle East policy, orders halt of all oil shipments to United States and almost doubles prices.
- 1976 — Triple veto in UN Security Council by Britain, France and United States blocks resolution that would have embargoed arms shipments to South Africa.
- 1977 — South Africa bans black protest groups, closes leading black newspaper in country, and arrests the editor and other blacks in raids.
- 1987 — Two trains collide head on south of Jakarta, Indonesia, killing 102 people and injuring about 300.

ملكو ایچ



By Jean Chabrier

THE analgesic and febrifugal properties of willow leaves (*Salix Alba*) were already known at the time of Hippocrates of Kos, and that brilliant master of knowledge Pliny already recommended its use.

From those distant times and until the 19th century, they were listed in pharmacopoeias in the form of infusions, plasters and other preparations.

In 1829, a French pharmacist, Leroux, identified the active ingredient contained in the bark and he called it "Salicine". In 1853, another Frenchman, Gherard, carried out the first acetylation of salicylic acid, but it was not until 1899 that the German Hoffmann, working for Bayer, succeeded in obtaining the pure and stable form of our modern aspirin. This therapeutic miracle was the stake and object of numerous economic and political dealings.

It has always remained an excellent analgesic and anti-inflammatory medicine and the world's annual production amounts to around 100,000 tonnes.

But every rose has its thorn. For more than sixty years, its aggressive action on the fragile digestive mucous membranes has been noted. In 1954, a study showed that it was responsible for nearly a third of progressively developing gastro-duodenal ulcers with non-negligible surgical consequences (perforations, peritonitis and haemorrhages).

#### Mechanism

At the same time, gynaecologists are concerned at the outbreak of uterine haemorrhages which are difficult to control at this time except by mutilating surgery.

Rheumatologists, who prescribe a lot of aspirin, had the first cortisones, but they turned out to be imperfect products with troublesome side effects.

In the 60s, a return was made to aspirin which was described as "cortisone-like". Then towards the end of that decade modified cortisones appeared. These were quickly in competition with the group of "non-steroidal" anti-inflammatory drugs, which were highly popular until the last few years. But their perfect harmlessness is now highly contested, and

## Aspirin: no harmless benefactor

Recent evidence of aspirin reducing the risk of heart disease has given a new boost to this excellent analgesic and anti-inflammatory medicine. But every rose has its thorn... and while aspirin has many advantages, there are also quite a few side-effects we cannot ignore.

some of these drugs had to be taken off the market, and sometimes, even completely banned in certain countries.

The mechanism by which aspirin worked was still not known. In 1975, with the framework of great research on new physio-pathological concepts, "prostaglandins" were isolated.

It was a long and complex study of substances present in all the human organism, forming part of our immunological and cell defence systems.

The very first line of defence is the reaction of inflammation. Aspirin blocks this reaction by inhibiting the action of prostaglandins more or less completely: whence its anti-inflammatory effects.

At this stage, immunologists and infectiologists came onto the scene and quite rightly said that it was all very well to stop the inflammatory reaction or to limit its intensity, but, at the same time, the formation of precious antibodies was also blocked and the defence systems were upset.

Today, there is a tendency to apply the same argument to antibiotics, whose exaggerated use has reduced their effectiveness over the years, and leads to a total revision of the anti-infection strategy in time to come. It is an open debate.

At the same time, this research explained the haemorrhage-causing effects of aspirin. The mechanisms of coagulation were only explained recently. They are very complex. Briefly, the blood continuously carries a whole series of various substances and specialized cell elements.

At the slightest lesion in a blood-vessel wall, these substances and elements react so as to form a clot to block the gap.

The elements include platelets which join together, rather like sandbags which are thrown in front of a broken dyke. Aspirin inhibits this cohesion and stops the platelets coming together. This puts a stop to the continuation of the process which forms a blood clot and it therefore favours the appearance of haemorrhages.

Cardio-vascular diseases are by far the first cause of mortality. In fact, heart disease only concerns less than a fifth of these deaths and the problem is, above all, diseases affecting the blood vessels.

Bad eating habits, particularly too much fat (cholesterol), tobacco and alcohol are mainly responsible for this process, which is well-known by the name of arteriosclerosis.

#### Characterised

The latter is characterized by the formation of plaques which reduce the width (or lumen) of the vessels (resulting in under-oxygenation), makes them rigid and reduces the kind of inner coating of the vessels.

Moreover, they form asperities. All the conditions are present for clots to form and these can leave the wall of the vessels at any time, leading to the greatly feared "stroke" in the brain or coronary thrombosis. For forty years, anti-coagulant medicines have existed, and taken daily in conjunction with hygiene and dietary recommendations, they reduce the risk of the creation of a blood clot.

For forty years, laudatory statistics, alternating with other less enthusiastic ones, have also been regularly appearing. They show the frequency of spontaneous haemorrhagic accidents, or accidents which spontaneously



The world's annual production amounts to around 100,000 tonnes.

become haemorrhagic. Treatments of this kind need constant supervision.

More recently, the idea was raised of replacing these products by aspirin, whose anti-coagulant effects are now well-known. The discussion on the merits of aspirin or anti-coagulants has not reached a conclusion. "Double blind" studies using a placebo show that taking 30 centigrammes of aspirin daily reduces the occurrence of a stroke and appears to cut down recurrence of heart-attacks by 50 per cent but scientists do not yet agree unanimously.

If a human organism is kept under the effect of a product which inhibits prostaglandins, for months or years, there is a risk of the immunity system being deeply upset. Also, with

the rigour and extreme delicateness of the system controlling the perfect balance between acids and bases with a strict pH of 7.35, it might not be completely harmless to maintain a chronic state of acidosis in the body.

Considered as an all-purpose medicine, aspirin is used for many ailments and quite often for want of anything better. It was recently proposed for treating foetal hypotrophy. There are indeed some pregnancies which are strictly normal but in which the child is underweight and underdeveloped. Numerous forms of treatment have been suggested, without much success. Aspirin is the latest.

But the widespread belief that it is a harmless all-purpose product is a matter of dispute.



Asian countries are trying to prevent the spread of AIDS by screening paid blood donations.

By Kathleen Callo

MANILA: Asian countries are trying to prevent the spread of AIDS by screening blood donations and stopping blood banks from paying for what they call "red gold".

Medical experts said that if money is paid for blood donations, there is a greater chance of the blood being diseased than there is if donors give voluntarily.

But few developing countries can get enough blood from voluntary donations to satisfy local demand.

"Blood is a very scarce human resource... every country has a problem meeting requirements," Dr Ong Yong Wan, head of Singapore's AIDS committee, told a World Health Organisation meeting on safe blood.

One country taking part in the September 26-30 meeting in Manila said it had knowingly injected diseased blood due to a scarce supply.

The tiny Pacific island chain of Vanuatu told WHO in a report that 14.8 per cent of blood collected between 1984 and 1987 which tested positive for hepatitis B was used on local Melanesian patients. It said the blood was not given to those of European stock.

In China, paid donors gave 95 per cent of blood collected in 1987, a Peking Red Cross director told the meeting.

Other experts at the conference said traditional values prevented many Chinese from

## AIDS: blood donor risk

donating. Donors received payment equivalent to several weeks' salary, they said.

WHO officials say China, which began encouraging unpaid donations in 1984, had committed itself to eventually phasing out money for blood.

In the Philippines, paid donors account for 70 per cent of the blood supply. Clinics, private hospitals and storefront collection points pay about 175 pesos (eight dollars) a pint.

In India, "professional" donors go from one collection centre to another earning money donating their blood, medical sources said.

Many donors in Vietnam and Laos are also paid, WHO officials said.

Commercial blood centres exist in developed countries, alongside voluntary collection systems, but health experts say the system of paying for donations is a special problem in poor countries lacking facilities to test blood.

"Some donors are so poor that in order to make a better living they jump from line to line at multiple transfusion cen-

tres," WHO said in a report last year.

Health officials at the meeting said more money, equipment and national collection programmes were needed to ensure safe blood supplies.

The virus causing Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, which saps the body of its ability to fight disease, is transmitted by exchange of body fluids.

Asia and Oceania accounted for less than one per cent of the 111,854 known AIDS cases worldwide by August, WHO said.

But the number of cases in 24 countries in the region almost doubled in the last year, from 558 to 994. Australia, Japan and New Zealand accounted for 96 per cent of the cases.

Dr Sima Huilan, a WHO regional adviser, said the rise indicated that AIDS was being brought in from outside the region and that local health people were getting better at diagnosing it.

While countries or territories such as Australia, Hong Kong, Japan and Singapore test all blood donations for AIDS, others say they cannot afford it.

In Japan, more than 90 per cent of the known 1,038 AIDS carriers are haemophiliacs, who got the virus years ago from imported blood products before screening began.

A medical kit to test a unit of blood costs between two and three US dollars, but the annual health budget for some countries in the region is only four dollars per capita, experts said.

## Chinese herb: new malaria cure?

By Raymond Gijzen

AMSTERDAM. (Reuters): A plant used for thousands of years by Chinese herbalists is showing promising results in the fight against malaria, leading researchers say.

Artemisia annua, an annual plant common in Asia and North America, could provide new drugs against the world's most widespread disease, the researchers told an international conference on tropical medicine in Amsterdam.

Artemisia is used by Chinese herbalists to stop fever and treat a variety of ailments including dysentery and haemorrhoids and Chinese researchers told the 12th International Congress for Tropical Medicine and Malaria they have successfully used the drug to treat malaria patients as well.

#### Progress

The drug, so far approved only in China, offers a new weapon in the fight against a worldwide resurgence of malaria, which is caused by a parasite transmitted by mosquito bites.

Malaria, common throughout the world, causes fever, a host of other complaints and in

Artemisia annua, a plant common in Asia and North America could provide new drugs against the world's most widespread disease, say leading researchers.

the most severe cases can lead to coma and death.

Western scientists are not yet ready to try artemisia on patients, but they reported progress in developing new drugs from the plant's extracts.

"The problem is that parasites have become resistant to a number of existing drugs at the same time. We want a totally new class of drugs," said Daniel Klayman of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington.

Malaria parasites which are resistant to existing drugs like quinine were first found in parts of Latin America in the 1960s and are now found all over the tropics.

Drugs taken to prevent infection are usually prescribed for months at a time and they tend to linger in the blood, offering malaria parasites ample time to get used to them, Klayman said.

"Malaria is the most prevalent disease in the world.

It causes about one million deaths every year. That is a tremendous threat," he said, noting about 30 million people worldwide were estimated to be affected at any given time.

While recognised as a major threat by the World Health Organisation (WHO), malaria received only a fraction of the time and money spent on fighting AIDS and cancer, he said.

"The research on malaria is minimal. No pharmaceutical firm in the US is doing research on anti-malaria drugs," he said, noting research was concentrated in China, the Walter Reed Institute itself and some institutes in Europe.

Most of the potential buyers of anti-malaria drugs live in Third World countries and lack spending power, so drug firms have been unwilling to invest in this area, he said.

But with the numbers of Western tourists to tropical holiday spots rising sharply, some firms see enough com-

mercial potential for a new generation of medicine.

Klayman said preventive drugs still offered selective protection.

But he said Swiss and US researchers who earlier this year reported progress in work on a malaria vaccine were unlikely to produce one before the end of the century.

In the meantime, researchers looking at the artemisia plant think it can yield a drug which attacks the disease head-on after infection has taken place and leaves the body just as quickly, giving parasites no chance to become resistant.

Promises

It promises to be successful against the disease when used at the very first signs of infection and also seems capable of bringing patients out of a coma more quickly in cases of deadly cerebral malaria.

But some Western participants at the conference said that according to their research artemisia drugs might be harmful in the early stages of pregnancy and also seem unable to cure a developed infection entirely, meaning that traditional drugs which stay in the blood longer would still be needed to complete treatment.

## FAMILY DOCTOR

By Dr Allan Bruckheim

QUESTION: How can a doctor tell whether abnormal behaviour is caused by a physical disease or brought on by mental or emotional problems?

ANSWER: It's not an easy diagnosis to make; it takes considerable skill and experience. Researchers estimate that about 10 per cent of all patients who show up in hospitals or emergency rooms with psychiatric symptoms are actually suffering from physical problems that have affected their minds.

A complete physical examination, with laboratory tests, is an important step in finding out exactly what is wrong. This exam should include a complete neurological work-up as well as an assessment of mental status at the time of hospital admission. The patient should be examined and questioned (or family members questioned) about past trauma to the head, drinking and drug history, recent illnesses and usual habits.

Many physical diseases or problems can cause mental instability, mania, depression, schizoid symptoms, anxiety disorders, delirium or dementia. A tumour, stroke or injury to the skull can produce psychiatric

## CAREFUL DIAGNOSIS NEEDED OF ABNORMAL BEHAVIOUR

symptoms before any others are seen. ACT scan of the skull may rule out these situations.

Epilepsy can create psychiatric symptoms in some cases. Infectious diseases that cause mental problems, such as meningitis or encephalitis, should also be ruled out. Laboratory tests can be done to rule out thyroid conditions, adrenal disease, diabetes and liver disease.

A leading cause of psychiatric symptoms is drug and alcohol abuse. Most hospitals will test a patient admitted for psychiatric problems for recent drug use. No matter the cause, the patient must be treated with respect and careful analysis to provide them with the help they need.

QUESTION: Can you have a normal delivery after you've had a Caesarean section?

ANSWER: The saying used to be "once a Caesarean, always a Caesarean," but that's no longer so. Vaginal birth after a Caesarean section is a reality and is one way to help reduce the huge percentage of Caesarean sections.

The procedure is possible because the

method of performing a Caesarean has changed. Up until a few years ago, a Caesarean incision on the uterus was vertical, an incision that was more likely to rupture if vaginal delivery was attempted. Now obstetricians use a lower horizontal incision that is less likely to rupture in a later vaginal delivery.

A woman who had a vertical incision during a previous Caesarean should not be allowed to deliver the next baby vaginally, nor should that procedure be allowed if the woman doesn't have a record of the nature of the incision previously used. Eligibility also depends on whether the reason for the previous Caesarean, such as a medical condition or a pelvis that is too small, still exists.

A ruptured uterus during delivery can kill the foetus. A study of 5,000 deliveries from 1950 to 1980, which included women who had vertical incisions, found 14 foetal deaths due to rupture.

Another study of more than 2,000 women with horizontal scars reported no foetal deaths.

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## THE REMARKABLE FAMILY CAR

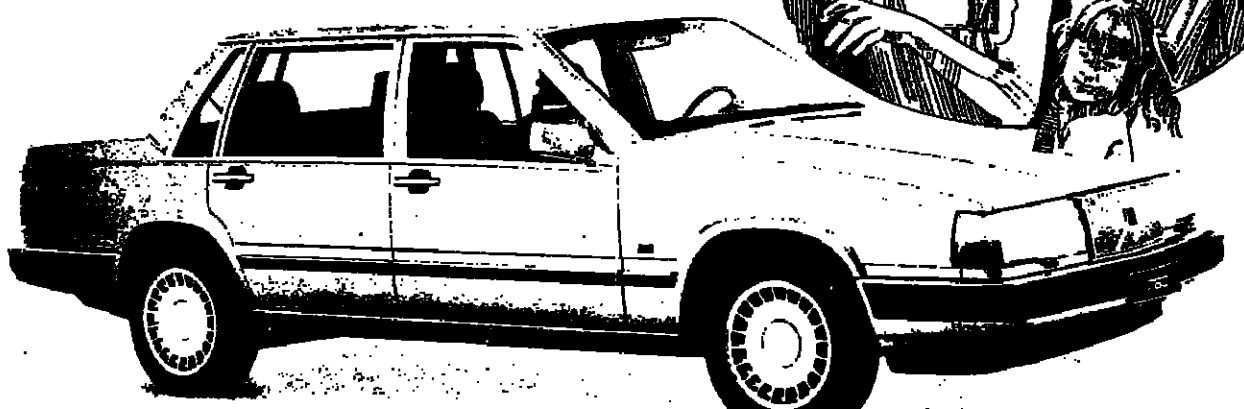
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VOLVO MANUFACTURE THE SAFEST CARS



## By Kathy Cuddihy

16 September

It's mid September, for goodness' sake. We really should have received a bank statement by now. Maybe the bills for all our credit card purchases have been processed and the bank isn't speaking to us any more. Maybe they've awarded us an "amnesty", although it's more likely they've written us off as a bad credit risk. Maybe the bank has burned to the ground and all the debit records were destroyed.

Maybe I should stop worrying. If I haven't seen the statement, then neither has Himself. Every cloud has a silver lining.

On the other hand, maybe the situation is so drastic that they'll phone the balance through to him...

18 September  
The kids have started their horse-riding lessons once again — there go any illusions we might have had about solvency.

Kieran informs me that he now thinks jodhpurs "look like sissy pants." This comes from the mouth of a boy who just HAD to have 2 pairs from the trendy, over-priced equestrian shop that must have seen us coming a mile away.

Tara is absolutely determined to win a riding competition this year. First prize is a horse. I made polite enquiries and discovered that this prize horse is also young and unbroken. I may have ended up as the stooge who

## Dear diary ...

cleans bird and hamster cages, walks dogs and house-trains cats, but I definitely call a halt at breaking in horses.

20 September  
After a few sporadic starts I am back in the "swing" of tennis (pardon the pun!) with great gusto. Himself, too, has the bug. Consequently, the only time we seem to see each other is on the courts — opposite courts. We have to shout our questions and answers to each other between points: "Any mail today?" "Nothing you'd want to know about" (dare I tell him the bank statement arrived? Worse, their debit records weren't destroyed.)

23 September  
Perhaps I should regulate my enthusiasm for tennis. People are already asking me if I ever go home. The kids are considering putting out a missing persons report on me! They can't even muster a sense of humour when I accidentally pack tennis balls instead of tangerines in their lunch boxes.

All I can say is that the possibility of tennis elbow has a lot more appeal than housemaid's knees or dishpan hands.

3 October  
What is it about maintenance men that gives them such a superior attitude? It is because they know where the water

mains faucet is hidden, and we don't? Or because they can get a temperamental dishwasher to work at the flick of a switch, and we can't? Or is it because our monumental dilemmas have a way of diminishing just as the Fix-It team arrives? Whatever the reason, I resent their attitude of superior efficiency, especially when it is so seldom followed by long-lasting results.

Today I called Maintenance about a blocked drain. The lone repairman stood at my door with an all-knowing grin on his face. "Right, Madam, why don't you show me where you think this blocked drain might be."

I took him to the back of the house and pointed to the tops of 2 offending drain pipes, the tell-tale puddles of water still surrounding them.

The silly grin broadened and then proceeded to tell me that the water no doubt came from the sprinkler system.

"The sprinkler hasn't been on all day. And why is the grass 8 inches tall right here and burned out in the rest of the lawn?"

"All right, Madam," the smile placated. "I'll have a look." Just to keep you quiet, bimbo, he probably muttered to himself.

Not too long afterwards I enjoyed the satisfaction of seeing a team of 4 men and

multi-meters of tubing to clear the drain. I bravely resisted the impulse to write "I told you so" in shaving cream on the window overlooking their activities.

10 October

Somebody somewhere wants me off the tennis court and back in the kitchen.

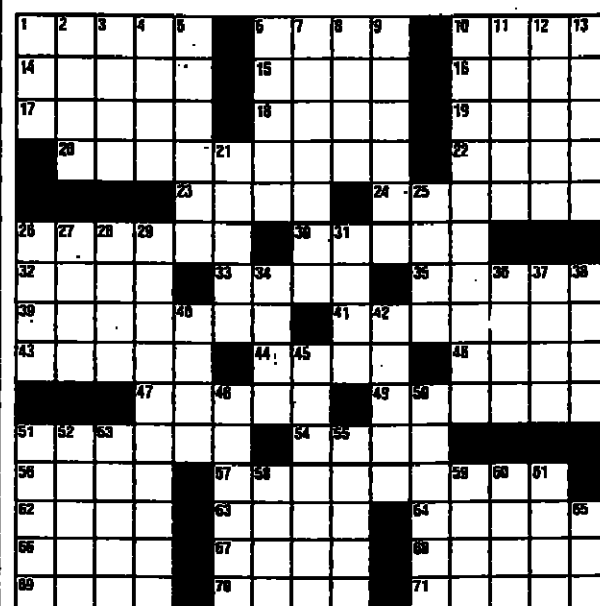
Three days ago I got hit in the mouth with a tennis ball. Messy and debilitating, but not disabling. Yesterday I gave my ankle an almighty sprain and had to be carried home.

Pain I can bear — as long as it is accompanied by a suitable dose of sympathy. But to suffer one without the pleasure of the other is just too unfair. Himself gave nothing more than a consoling cluck before disappearing for his own evening of tennis. The kids were slightly more attentive but punctuated their presence with "Gross, Mom. Look at the size of your foot." Tara later had the indecency to point out that if I kept gorging myself to overcome my self pity, I'd have a pair of hips to match my bloated ankle!

No respect. To make matters worse, the drains backed up again and I slipped in the overflow. I called Maintenance, but their men were on another job; some silly woman couldn't get her dishwasher to work.

There's a message in all this. I shudder to think what it might be. Breaking in horses suddenly seems a lot easier than what I'm going through ...

## TODAY'S CROSSWORD



## ACROSS

1 "— of dreadful note": Macbeth  
6 Engendered  
10 Certain golf stroke  
14 Singing syllables  
15 Dream, in Dijon  
16 Buffalo's waterfront  
17 The Norse gods  
18 Sheltered  
19 Lahr role  
20 OK Corral figure  
22 Fat  
23 Itemize  
24 Corrects  
26 Competition prize winner  
30 Ferber and namesakes  
32 La Scala offering  
33 Icelandic lore  
35 Type faces: Abbr.  
39 Shoreline  
41 Moslem  
43 Adjusted a motor  
44 Being, to Cato  
46 Italia's capital  
47 Dough raiser?  
49 Preacher  
51 — horse  
54 Italian wine city  
56 Nimbus  
57 Famous frontiersman

## DOWN

1 — glance  
2 Sketched  
3 Facile  
4 Lamb's nom de plume  
5 Dickens' Rosa  
6 Hillside, to Burns  
7 Akin  
8 Lasting beginning  
9 Make more profound  
10 Oklahoma outlaw  
11 Advocate: Suffix  
12 Norwegian coastal feature  
13 Wards off  
15 Worn-out  
21 Knight wear  
25 Finished  
27 — of (instead)  
28 Moslem call to prayer

## ACROSS

29 Cannon Ball's engineer  
31 Rostrum  
34 Bad grades  
36 Minor prophet  
37 VIP's transport  
38 Use 52 Down  
40 Brainstorm  
42 Plant membrane  
45 Natural height  
48 Turkish capital  
50 Aviator  
51 "— endearing young charms"  
52 Police device  
53 Tony of the "Twins"  
55 Tool chest item  
58 "— old cowhand"  
59 Farm fixture  
60 Step — (nuzzle)  
61 Zlich  
65 But: Lat.

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

USE YOUR ENTRIES WISELY

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

♠ K 9 6 3

♥ 8 5 2

♦ 8 6 4

♣ K 10 4

WEST

♠ 5

♥ K J 7 4

♦ K J 9 3 2

♣ A 7 3

EAST

♠ 4

♥ Q 10 9

♦ A Q 10 7 5

♣ J 8 6 2

SOUTH

♠ A Q J 10 8 7 2

♥ A 6 3

♦ Void

♣ Q 9 5

The bidding:

North East South West

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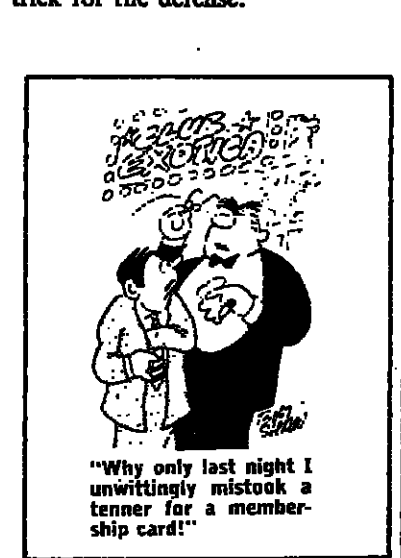
Pass Pass

that it mattered, but a poor choice in our opinion. There were three obvious losers, two hearts and a club. The road to success lay in not losing a second trick in the club suit. Declarer found a way of getting home regardless of which defender sheltered the knave.

He won the first trick with dummy's king, underplaying the queen from hand. Next came a diamond ruff high, followed by the eight of trumps overtaken with dummy's nine and a second diamond again ruffed high. Declarer's carefully preserved two of trumps now served as an entry for another diamond ruff, and the groundwork for the upcoming strip and endplay had been accomplished.

South simply cashed the ace of hearts and exited with a heart, and sat back to enjoy the fruits of his labor. The defenders could take a second heart trick with impunity, but that's where the free ride ended.

Whichever defender was then on lead would have the choice of losing plays. A club return would obviate declarer's need to guess the location of the jack. A red-suit return would permit declarer to ruff in one hand while discarding a club from the other. Either way, the ace of clubs was going to be the third and last trick for the defense.



"Why only last night I unwittingly mistook a tennor for a membership card!"

## Are you second-rate at first aid?

Could you rush in to save a life in a crowded restaurant or a busy street? Or would you just stand by and stare? Complete the quiz to see how you could cope with a crisis.

By Mary Kemp

YOU don't have to be a doctor or a nurse to know the basics of First Aid.

Whether in a cinema and the person next to you has a nose bleed, or in a taxi and the driver suddenly slumps over the wheel, knowing what to do in an emergency can save lives.

Would you know what to do until professional help arrived? How would you cope if your mother dropped a cup of scalding hot tea on her lap? Or if your little brother had a pencil stuck in his ear?

This quiz shows how you measure up in the First Aid ratings.

1. How would you stop a nose bleed?

A. Sit well forward and pinch the soft part of your nose?

B. Place a cold key down your back?

C. Sit down and put your feet in the air?

D. Sit well back and pinch the soft part of your nose?

2. You fall off a step ladder while decorating the ceiling and dislocate your shoulder. What should you do?

A. Try and push it back into place?

B. Soak it in a basin of hot water?

C. Bandage it?

D. Sit down and support it on some cushions?

3. It is Friday afternoon and you have a horrendous toothache, but the earliest you can go and see the dentist is the next morning. Do you:

A. Have a couple of brandies and go to bed?

B. Rinse your mouth with hot water?

C. Dab the affected tooth with oil of cloves and take some pain killers?

D. Hold a hot water bottle to your face?

4. A picnic in the outdoors comes to an abrupt end when your friend is stung by a wasp. Would you:

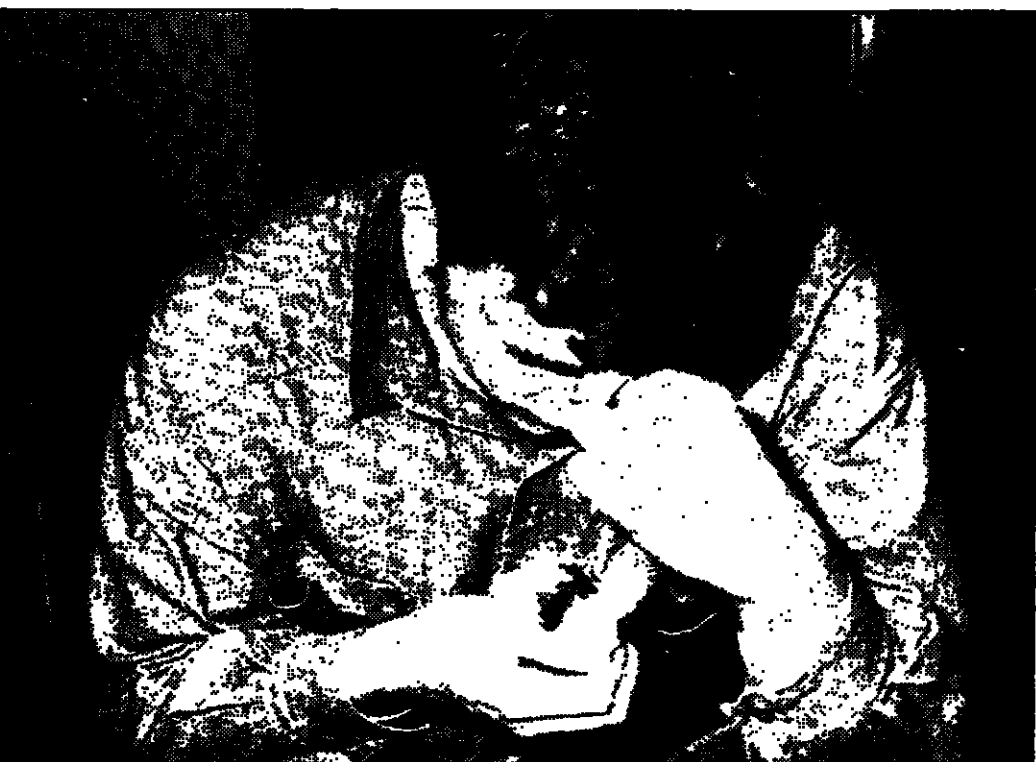
A. Rub a green leaf on the sting?

B. Remove the sting with some tweezers and apply some ice?

C. Try and squeeze out the sting with your fingers?

D. Scratch the sting to relieve the irritation?

5. Barbecuing on an open fire goes horribly wrong when your friend's shirt catches alight. What is your reaction?



A boy with a nose bleed. Would you know what to do to help?

A. Try and take her shirt off?

B. Roll her along the ground in an attempt to put out the flames?

C. Lie her down with the burning side up and douse her in water?

D. Beat her with a damp towel?

6. You are going home from work on a crowded bus when the lady next to you suddenly faints. Do you:

A. Lie her down with her legs raised?

B. Give her a glass of water?

C. Slap her cheeks and try and arouse her?

D. Give her a glass of brandy?

7. How would you remove a fly that had flown into your eye?

A. Rub your eye vigorously?

B. Wash your eye with a sterile water solution?

C. Use the corner of a handkerchief to try and lift it out?

D. Blow your nose?

8. At a dinner party your host suddenly chokes on the mackerel pate. How would you help?

A. Punch him gently in the stomach?

B. Bend him over and slap him between the shoulder blades?

C. Give him a drink of water?

D. Give him a slice of bread to chew?

9. What would you do if you burned hand?

A. Hold it under hot water for 10 minutes?

B. Rub some butter on it?

C. Hold it under lowly running, cold water for 10 minutes?

D. Wrap it in some clean fluffy material?

10. After a morning jog you discover you have strained your leg. What do you do:

A. Put your leg up for the rest of the day?

B. Give your leg a massage?

C. Have a hot bath?

D. Apply ice to your leg for half an hour and then bandage it?

11. Your weekend in Kheiran is spoilt when too much lying on the beach gives your travelling companion heat-stroke. What is the most important thing you should do?

A. Tell them to wear a hat and buy some sun-tan lotion?

B. Move them into the shade and wrap them in a cold, wet sheet?

C. Give them some salt tablets?

D. Give them a cold drink?

12. You get an electrical burn when you plug your radio in to a faulty socket. What do you do:

A. Place a clean dressing on the burn?

B. Break the blisters?

C. Apply some soothing lotion?

D. Run it under slowly running, cold water for 10 minutes?

13. In the middle of carving a lamb breast you slip and cut your hand so badly it won't stop bleeding. Do you ...

A. Tie a bandage tightly around your wrist?

B. Run it under cold water?

C. Squeeze the edges of the wound together and bandage firmly with a clean dressing?

D. Remove any debris in the wound and then bandage it?

14. You stop to help the victim of a car crash who is not injured but clearly in shock. Would you:

A. Give them a hot cup of tea and a sandwich?

B. Lie them on one side and wrap them in a blanket?

C. Offer them a cigarette to calm them down?

D. Wave some of your favourite perfume under their nose?

15. Out for a drive in your open-top car, an insect goes into your friend's ear. Do you:

A. Whisper sweet nothings?

B. Try and pull out the insect with your fingers?

C. Lie them one side and blow down the other ear?

D. Gently try and flood the ear with tepid water?

## How to score:

	A	B	C	D
1.	5	0	0	0
2.	0	0	0	5
3.	0	0	5	0
4.	0	5	0	0
5.	0	0	5	0
6.	5	0	0	0
7.	0	5	0	0
8.	A	B	C	D
9.	0	0	5	0
10.	0	0	0	5
11.	5	0	0	0
12.	5	0	0	0
13.	0	0	5	0
14.	0	5	0	0
15.	0	0	0	5



# BUSINESS & FINANCE

World economy will grow 3.9pc this year

## North and South headed for economic growth

VIENNA, Austria, Oct 18, (AP) — The world economy will grow 3.9 per cent this year as both North and South appear headed for increased economic growth, the 1988-89 global report of the UN Industrial Development Organization said yesterday.

The world economy's rate of expansion in 1987 was 3.4 per cent.

The 256-page study, introduced by UNIDO director general Domingo L. Siazon Jr., said in 1988 Third World countries should achieve a 4.4 per cent growth rate, which is a full percentage point higher than in 1987 and more than three times the rate in 1986.

Despite pessimistic projections and fears of overheated

economies, the report said that "developed countries will achieve a solid 3.5 per cent growth in 1988," with strong performances likely from the United States and Canada.

**Growth**  
"UNIDO is of the view that at the end of 1988 the United States economy will register a 3.4 per cent growth in GDP, with the unemployment rate no lower than 5.4 per cent and the rate of inflation only slightly higher than 4 per cent," the annual review of the world economy said.

Strong showings also were forecast for Japan and Western Europe, with West Germany "most likely" to achieve a growth rate higher than the 1.9

per cent projected by the organization for Economy Co-operation and Development.

As a whole, OECD countries were expected to enjoy an average growth of 3.5 per cent in 1988, reversing the steadily declining growth trend in recent years.

"This long-awaited and above par performance by the OECD countries," the report said, "will improve the economic prospects for developing countries in 1988."

The immediate outlook for the Third World seemed "considerably" better than reported previously and "many economically troubled countries will make substantial strides toward adjustment with growth for the

first time since 1980," the report said.

However, the yearly study warned that in the medium term, the possibility of another recession cannot be completely ruled out.

It noted among several causes for concern a "public hypersensitivity" about inflation in the United States, Europe and Japan, "the continuing fascination of the public by the month-to-month behaviour of the US trade statistics," and a deflationary course for the US economy requested by West European leaders and policy-makers.

**Reduction**  
"It cannot be ruled out that the (new) incoming (US) administration may ask for and obtain a

drastic reduction in public spending. That would inevitably generate a recession," the global report said.

It warned that an American recession could slow down the pace of the world economy to a considerable extent.

"UNIDO is not predicting a recession but ... a continuous economic growth of 3.4 per cent annually well into 1992."

"However, given the volatility of the international financial market and rising inflationary fear in many developed countries, the possibility of an unwanted and imposed recession in the United States should not be ruled out completely," the study said.

Economic reforms undertaken by some East European

countries may have an adverse effect on their immediate growth and the impact of slow growth in these countries "will probably be felt by very few developing nations," the report said.

Communist nations in Asia, particularly China, will have higher growth rates.

In Latin America, Brazil and Mexico were expected to enjoy strong performances while Argentina may have a drop in GDP, the report said.

The countries of North Africa were expected to do better, except for Libya and Sudan, while those of the Indian subcontinent, especially India and Pakistan, were likely to have higher growth rates, the UNIDO report said.

### USCB announces first profit in two years

RIYADH, Oct 18, (Reuters) — United Saudi Commercial Bank (USCB), one of the kingdom's nine joint ventures, has reported its first profit in more than two years.

The bank said in an unaudited statement appearing in the Arabic press today its net earnings for the first nine months of 1988 were 3.9 million riyals (\$1 million).

USCB lost 17.9 million riyals (\$4.7 million) during the same period last year and 1.4 million riyals (\$373,000) in the first half of 1988.

Operating revenues rose by 7.1 million riyals (\$1.9 million) to 99.9 million (\$26.6 million) while operating expenditures fell by six million riyals (\$1.6 million) to 71.4 million (\$19 million).

**Provisions**  
USCB said provisions for non-performing loans were cut to 24.6 million riyals (\$6.6 million) from 33.3 million (\$8.9 million).

Total assets rose 5.5 per cent to 4.38 billion riyals (\$1.2 billion) while deposits climbed by 14.1 per cent to 3.64 billion (\$971 million).

The bank, one of the kingdom's nine joint ventures, is owned 70 per cent by Saudi shareholders and 10 per cent each by Bank Mellat, United Bank of Pakistan and Saudi International Bank.

### Move to prop up oil prices

## OPEC seeks common ground for new accord

MADRID, Oct 18, (Reuters) — Major OPEC nations, seeking to reverse the biggest oil price slump since 1986, hope to lay the groundwork this week for a major new production pact, but first they must overcome years of enmity between Iran and Iraq.

The 13-nation organisation, in disarray after a production war flooded markets with oil, has called a joint meeting here of two key committees which will bring the oil ministers of Iran and Iraq together for the first time since the Gulf war ceasefire.

**Groundwork**  
Oil market analysts say the talks will be crucial if OPEC is to capitalise on a new pledge of output restraint from Gulf producers and seal a comprehensive accord to boost prices at a meeting of all 13 ministers to take place in Vienna next month.

"Madrid has to lay the groundwork," said Steve Turner, oil analyst at brokers Smith New Court in London. "The meetings are primarily to get Iraq back into a production agreement."

But bringing Iraq back into the fold may not be that easy given nearly eight years of war with Iran during which both sides wrought untold damage to each other's oil production facilities and refineries.

Iraq has been excluded from Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' pacts since

1986 because of a row over its demand to be allowed to produce as much oil as Iran.

Baghdad's production was severely curtailed by the war, but since July's ceasefire it has been able to step up output sharply and is now pumping up to 2.7 million barrels per day — the second highest among OPEC members after Saudi Arabia.

A first sign OPEC might be edging towards a new output pact to replace a 1986 agreement now in tatters came on Monday when Gulf states floated a scheme to give Iraq a quota equal to that of Iran, namely 2.369 million barrels per day.

But within hours Iran poured cold water on the scheme, labelling it "totally unprincipled." In typical see-saw reaction, oil prices gave up half the gains scored on the Gulf plan.

**Strategy**  
The Madrid meetings of OPEC's prices and long-term strategy committees will try to reconcile Tehran and Baghdad, but the task has been made more difficult by lack of progress at UN-sponsored Gulf war peace talks.

"They will have to forget prisoners of war and the legacy of the fighting and say 'let's concentrate just on oil,'" said Smith New Court's Turner.

Iran and Iraq sit on the strategy committee — resur-

ted after a gap of more than two years — with Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela and Algeria. It will be the first time Iranian and Iraqi ministers have met since the Gulf war ceasefire took hold.

**Agreement**  
But even if Iran drops objections to Iraq's readmittance to an OPEC production agreement, a number of other

hurdles could still bar the way to a full-scale pact in Vienna in November.

The Gulf producers plan, thrashed out at a meeting in Riyadh on Sunday, foresees a rise in OPEC's overall production ceiling to 18.5 to 19 million barrels a day from what would currently be 17.429 million if Iraq were put on an equal footing with Iran.

But that would in practice

entail sharp cutbacks from what was estimated to be total output of 20.6 million barrels per day in September and oil markets are already sceptical.

It would mean the United Arab Emirates scaling back to just over one million barrels per day from a current level estimated in a Reuters survey of OPEC nations at 1.9 million in September.

## US aid to Egypt and Pakistan criticised as hurting business

WASHINGTON, Oct 18, (AP) — Some US aid to Egyptian and Pakistani government agencies undercuts President Ronald Reagan's policy of helping private business and discouraging government enterprises, congressional investigators say.

The criticism came from the General Accounting Office (GAO), which watches government spending for Congress. This report was sent to Rep. Lee H. Hamilton, chairman of the subcommittee in the House of Representatives that deals with Middle East problems.

It centred on goods distributed by the US Agency for International Development (AID), including farm and building equipment, spare parts, grain and oil.

"For example, although aid has encouraged Pakistan to eliminate agricultural subsidies, it has financed \$142 million in fertilizer and 123 million in wheat and cotton imports that

(Pakistan) government agents sell to farmers and consumers at subsidised prices," the report said.

The largest of these "commodity import programmes," which amounted to \$359 million in 1987, go to Egypt and Pakistan. Egypt has had \$3 billion worth of this kind of aid since 1975, the report said.

**Policy**  
Official policy at AID says goods that government-owned enterprises get at subsidised prices hurt a country's development because they discourage sales at market prices.

In Egypt the GAO found that the government had piled up \$325 million worth of Egyptian pounds, over half the proceeds from sales of US aid goods, instead of using the money for development projects.

"Because of Egypt's high inflation rate — 20 per cent in 1986 — the cost of this large

accumulation of local currencies remaining idle is high in terms of missed opportunities to support development," according to the report.

Inflation in Egypt has been reported easing this year, however.

The report included a memo from Richard E. Bissell, the Assistant AID Administrator, saying that the Egyptian government has tentatively promised to release about \$165 million worth of the local currency for development efforts this year and next.

**Development**  
"The report's conclusion that more development is achieved by applying more local currency to more projects, rather than specific budgetary support without regard to the circumstances in a given country, is not supported by any analysis in the report," Bissell wrote.

The congressional investigators had asked administration officials for comment.

## China reassures investors over breakup of Kanghua

BEIJING, Oct 18, (Reuters) — China reassured foreign investors yesterday that they would not lose money through any breakup of the state-owned company Kanghua in the campaign against irregular business practices.

The official New China News Agency said China Kanghua Development Corporation would carry out "all unfulfilled economic and trade contracts with foreign firms."

Corporation chairman Tang Ke was quoted as saying Kanghua's Hong Kong branch, Bring Fast Company, would be dissolved after clearing up contracts and assets.

**Links**

China announced on Saturday that Kanghua, which has close links with China's senior leader Deng Xiaoping, would have to be "cleaned up and reformed."

Official newspapers stopped

short of accusing it of breaking the law but the official agency said it was "a centre of controversy." China Daily said the state decision to tighten control over companies such as Kanghua "was prompted by raging business irregularities."

Kanghua was founded in June 1987 and given special tax breaks because of its donations to a charity for handicapped Chinese headed by Deng Pufang, crippled son of China's 84-year-old senior leader.

**Businessmen**

Its size was unknown — no accounts were published — but Chinese businessmen said it was powerful because of its connections with the Deng family.

One Chinese official said privately the crackdown on Kanghua was not an attack on Deng but would be an embarrassment. Targeting the company was

meant as a lesson that the Communist Party was not just using words to attack corruption, he said.

The New China News Agency indicated Kanghua's size by saying it had concluded about 4,000 import and export contracts totalling \$670 million with firms in 30 countries and regions in its 16 months of existence.

This sum does not include business done by Kanghua's 171 branch companies within China or the investment services and technology development Kanghua also engaged in.

Tang was quoted as saying Kanghua had expanded too rapidly and its scope of business was too large.

The breakup of Kanghua means it will not be allowed to import or export and many subsidiaries will be dissolved or divorced from the parent company.

### World Business Summary

#### Jordanian dinar slides in chaotic market

AMMAN, Oct 18, (Reuters) — The Jordanian dinar plunged in chaotic trading today, with banks quoting 490/495 fils to the dollar and moneychangers posting rates as low as 510/530. The market rates lost touch with the Central Bank rate of 441/443 fils, itself 14 per cent below the rate set on Saturday. "Demand for foreign currencies outstripped supply four-fold," one money-changer said. "People don't know what is happening and they all want to buy dollars." There are 1,000 fils to the dinar, which has lost a quarter of its value against the dollar this year. A dealer at one leading bank attributed the latest pressure on the dinar to a scramble for foreign currency by banks seeking to satisfy client demand to cover letters of credit. "There is less demand for dollars from moneychangers. Now the banks are the market-makers," the dealer said. "If they cannot supply foreign exchange they will lose credibility." The dinar has lost more than 14 per cent of its dollar value since the Central Bank brought official rates closer to those of the free market on Saturday. It has declined even more against other currencies, which have been gaining against the dollar abroad. The Central Bank has said it would intervene when necessary to stabilise the dinar, but has not done so.

#### Philip Morris announces \$11b tender offer for Kraft

NEW YORK, Oct 18, (AP) — Philip Morris Companies Inc. announced an \$11-billion cash tender offer for Kraft Inc. on Monday that would be the second biggest corporate acquisition in US history. The only larger deal was the \$13.4-billion purchase of Gulf Corp. in 1984 by Standard Oil Co. of California, which later changed its name to Chevron Corp. Philip Morris said it had no plans to sell off any parts of Kraft to finance the deal. It said its offer of \$90 a share, in cash, was 51 per cent above Kraft's stock price as of last Friday. Philip Morris asked Kraft to drop a by-law provision aimed at staving off unfriendly takeovers and asked to meet with Kraft management as soon as possible. In a letter to Kraft chairman John M. Richmond, Hamish Maxwell, chairman of the board of Philip Morris, said: "Kraft's food business complements our food business."

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## Nigeria resists US pressure to lift wheat import ban

LAGOS, Oct 18. (Reuters): Nigeria is facing mounting US pressure, including the threat of trade sanctions, to lift a ban on wheat imports.

But the military government has reaffirmed its stand with a sharp response to complaints by the American ambassador that the ban discriminated against US farm exports.

"The wheat ban is an essential part of our readjustment process aimed at a self-reliant economy," Duro Olanbiye, the senior government spokesman, said on Monday.

He said Nigeria would not be blackmailed or intimidated over the issue, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reported.

### Ban

Olanbiye was reacting to media accounts of a speech on October 6 by US Ambassador Princeton Lyman in which he attacked the wheat ban, imposed at the start of 1987, and an earlier embargo on rice imports.

Lyman warned that new congressional legislation aimed at narrowing the trade deficit requires the President to report on all countries discriminating against US exports.

"Trade sanctions are called for if no redress is possible," he said, adding that the ban had widened his country's trade deficit with Nigeria.

Nigeria's urban bread consumers were the sixth largest market for US wheat exports before the ban. Nigeria spent \$250 million a year in the early 1980s on importing wheat, mostly from the United States.

But the government of General Ibrahim Babangida imposed the ban to boost local production and save foreign currency as part of its structural adjustment programme.

Lyman alleged that the ban, which has driven many of Nigeria's 21 flour mills out of business, was discriminatory because of massive smuggling.

"If Nigeria bans American agricultural products, and then smuggles in wheat flour and rice from other sources, the issue becomes much more serious between us."

"In fact at least 300,000 tons each of smuggled wheat flour and rice is entering Nigeria each year," Lyman said.

## Gulf Air to resume flights to Iraq and Iran

BAHRAIN, Oct 18. (Reuters): Gulf Air said today it was finalising plans to resume flights to Iraq and Iran after a seven-year break caused by the Gulf war.

Deputy chief of aviation operations Hassan Juma told reporters the airline would schedule three flights a week to Baghdad, two to the Iranian port city of Bandar Abbas and four to Shiraz, in southeast Iran.

Juma would not give a starting date, although he said the services would begin by the end of the year.

### Destination

He said Tehran would initially not be included as a destination due to little demand from passengers on the Arab side of the Gulf.

The airline, jointly owned by Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the emirate of Abu Dhabi, suspended flights to both Iran and Iraq in March 1981, six months after the start of the Gulf war.

A ceasefire came into effect in the war on August 30 and several international airlines have since announced plans to resume flights to Iran and Iraq.

Gulf Air is negotiating a loan of \$160 million with a consortium of international banks to buy four Boeing-767 airliners.

## US business inventories continue to rise

WASHINGTON, Oct 18. (AP): US business inventories continued their steady rise in August, the government said on Monday, but economists remain untroubled because the expansion is not outpacing strong sales.

The Commerce Department said goods held on shelves and backlogs rose 0.8 per cent to \$733.7 billion, following a 0.7 per cent gain in July. It was the 20th consecutive monthly increase.

Rising inventories can be a sign of economic sluggishness as manufacturers order production cuts and layoffs while goods in reserve are sold off.

### Sales

However, analysts are not particularly troubled by current inventory levels because sales also have been strong. Compared with a year ago, inventories are up 8.7 per cent while sales are up 8.0 per cent.

The department said August sales totalled \$487.7 billion, up a brisk 1.1 per cent from July, when the gain was a slight 0.1 per

## Despite doubts raised by crash

# High-tech revolution in financial market forges ahead

NEW YORK, Oct 18. (AP): The stock market crash triggered worries about the destructive effects of computers, but a year later the high-tech revolution in the financial marketplace is forging ahead relentlessly, especially outside the United States.

Moreover, while US policymakers agonise over "programme trading" and other high-tech investment tools that may have played roles in the crash a year ago on Wednesday, computer advances abroad are raising serious questions about the competitiveness of US financial markets in the 1990s and beyond.

### Investors

Such advances, for example, enable US investors to use a British-owned computerised trading

network called Instinet to buy or sell stocks abroad when domestic markets are closed.

Elsewhere, from the world's oldest stock exchange in Amsterdam to the bourses of Paris, Tokyo and Toronto, exchange officials have replaced order scribbles and floor traders with super-fast electronic display screens that enable investors of all nationalities to buy and sell more cheaply.

"I'm not sure we're doing anything differently, we're just doing it faster," said Robert Reid, executive vice president of Instinet, a subsidiary of Reuters Holdings PLC that can electronically trade stocks in 14 countries. "All we're doing is automating that which we've done before."

Many experts believe securities markets in general, and US markets in particular, are in danger of becoming obsolete because computers have made it so easy to cheaply trade stocks, bonds and other financial items.

### Inevitable

"Technology is inevitable," said Daniel Siegel, a market expert and professor at Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate Business School. "It allows people to communicate and transact very quickly. That means the role of an exchange is more and more vague."

The implications of this change are profound, Siegel and others say. For one thing, it means the post-crash era will be marked by more exotic investing

techniques and a need for an even faster flow of information, rather than a retreat to traditional conservative patterns.

The change also means that the Titan New York Stock Exchange, which still handles most of US stock trading, could face serious threats to its survival as investors find it more efficient and cheaper to trade elsewhere.

### Asset

"The NYSE's greatest asset is its building," said Richard Niehoff, president of the Cincinnati Stock Exchange, one of the first US exchanges to totally automate and bypass the humans who match buyers with sellers.

"Dinosaurs go," Niehoff said. "Over time, I just don't see the

need for (trading) floors. I can see a lot more at a terminal than I can see at a floor post."

Congress, alarmed not only by the market weakness during the crash but by the role computers will play in the future, has ordered a major study into the relationship between technology and the securities industry. Conducted by the office of technology assessment, it is expected to be done by December 1989.

### Innovations

The NYSE, also sensing a threat, is aggressively expanding its own computer capacity to handle enormous volumes, from 250 million shares a day in 1984 to 600 million a day this year and 1 billion daily in the next decade. The exchange also has tink-

ered with other innovations that it says will enhance the ability of its market makers, known as specialists, to price stocks fairly and trade them efficiently, keys to any stock market's success.

Critics say the NYSE's efforts, in the long run, are a futile attempt to preserve dominance of the specialists in a world they no longer can control. Some liken the exchange's use of computers to an ultra-modern telephone system in which all calls must still be placed through human operators.

Other US financial markets have taken a markedly different approach to the future, acknowledging the inevitability of 24-hour automated trading and the possible exodus of American investment business overseas.

The Chicago Mercantile Exchange, for example, plans a joint venture with Reuters for an electronic network, called Globex, allowing all-night trading of currency futures and options and interest-rate futures on Treasury bills.

### Market

"If the Merc closes down at night and allows Tokyo and London to establish markets in its commodities, it might decline faster," said Paul Tattersall, executive vice president for Globex, which intends to start by next summer.

The US securities industry's differing approaches to technology in the post-crash era have alarmed some experts, who say a strong and unified stand is crucial.

## '1987 event a severe correction of an inflated market'

# Strains still beset the global economy, say economists

LONDON, Oct 18. (Reuters): A year on, the stock exchange plunge last October 19 looks more like the bursting of a speculative bubble than a replay of the 1929 Wall Street crash — the herald of the great depression.

Economists, however, say that strains still beset the global economy and that careful management will be needed if the West's longest peacetime expansion is to be kept going.

And voices can still be heard arguing that the parallel with 1929 will turn out right in the end.

"The crash was telling us that the economy is turning down. We're heading into something much bigger than a minor recession," says US stock market seer Robert Prechter.

Many experts, however, now

consider what happened a year ago as more a market than an economic phenomenon.

"We still can't say that there will never be another crash," US Securities and Exchange Commission chairman David Ruder said on American television today.

### Highs

"I don't think it's likely. But we must always remember that when the market goes up to new highs there is always the possibility it will decline and do so in a hurry."

London Stock Exchange chairman Sir Nicholas Goodison calls the 1987 event a "severe correction" of an inflated market.

All the money printed to pay for OPEC oil in the 1970s and accumulated in this decade in the West's pension, insurance and

other investor funds, and in ordinary people's pockets, had to go somewhere. It sloshed into the stock markets.

The great "bull" market in shares around the globe is generally held to have begun in August 1982 when Wall Street's Dow Jones industrial average was at 776.92. It peaked in August 1987 at 2,722.42.

### Peak

The Dow is now only about 20 per cent below that peak after being 36 per cent down following its stunning 508-point fall on "Black Monday" October 19, 1987.

And it is still higher than it was at the start of last year — nudging 2,150 compared with 1,927.31 on January 2, 1987.

Tracking Wall Street, London's FTSE index of 100 British

blue chips is down 24 per cent from a pre-crash high. But, at around 1,860, it is some 180 points above where it began 1987.

Tokyo, meanwhile, the biggest market, recovered all the losses it made in last year's shake-out and its Nikkei average touched a record 28,423.38 points this August 5.

Some analysts worry about that, however.

"I will sleep peacefully when Japan goes through its version of October 1987," says Gordon Pepper, a British professor in business studies and adviser to brokerage Midland Montagu.

### Bubble

"It would appear to me that Japan has a financial bubble...let's hope they manage their downward valuation in assets levels in a way that doesn't cause

chaos elsewhere."

Many people, meanwhile, particularly small investors, remain wary of share markets in several centres.

In London, the number of daily share deals is down 45 per cent. In New York, mutual funds sales are down by half.

"More than anything else, the individual investor wants to know his money is safe," said Robert Genader, senior executive vice-president at Ambac Indemnity Corporation. One worry is that there could be an irrational stampede.

Economists throughout 1987 sounded warnings about strains on the global economy, particularly America's huge budget and trade deficits. But share values kept rising.

Then, another set of bad US trade figures on October 14 and a

public row over economic policy between the United States and West Germany, suddenly wakened the markets to the sort of worries that had been nagging the economists.

### Rates

Wall Street feared the dollar might go into a free-fall and that, to prop it, US interest rates must rise. High interest rates at best syphon money out of stocks — at worst, they crimp economic activity so hard as to cause a slump.

A year later, the US deficits have not gone away.

America's trade this August, the last month for which figures are available, was an unrevised \$12.2 billion in the red — down from the record, a revised 15.06 billion in August, 1987, but still a big shortfall.

## Stocks stay quiet ahead of crash anniversary

# Dollar slips and gold steady

LONDON, Oct 18. (Reuters): The dollar slipped in Europe today and most stock markets were subdued on the eve of the anniversary of the Oct 1987 crash.

The dollar's gentle decline gathered momentum in late trading in London, falling to 1.8050 West German marks and 126.65 Japanese yen from yesterday's close of 1.8105 and 127.25.

"At the moment it's a one-way street for the dollar," a Frankfurt currency dealer said.

### Takeover

Wall Street share prices showed narrow losses at midday with interest centred on takeover issues following tobacco and consumer products giant Philip Morris' \$11.5-billion takeover bid for Kraft Inc., the biggest US food company.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down four points at 2,136 at midday as trading slowed from an active early pace.

"I didn't have high hopes for a general gain in stock prices prior to the first anniversary of the crash tomorrow," said senior trader Lawrence Madden of London Brokers S.G. Warburg. Nikko senior trader Jack Conlon added: "The undertone is healthy, but investors still want to get past the crash anniversary."

The early fall on Wall Street took London by surprise and share prices eased.

"We were all expecting a much firmer opening on Wall Street (following the Philip Morris bid for Kraft) so the fall came as a surprise," one equity trader said.

Share prices closed slightly lower in active trading on the

London stock exchange today as the market's attention was glued to developments surrounding the British-based overseas trading company Lornho.

Putting aside Lornho, the rest of the market was mixed with no apparent direction. Analysts said although the market has shown recent signs of resilience, the scope for further sharp upward movement over the short term was beginning to look limited as the Financial Times-Stock Exchange 100-share index approached its post-crash high of 1892.2.

The FTSE 100-share index ended 3.0 points, or 0.02 per cent lower at 1857.0, its lowest point of the day. The index rose as much as 3.8 points early in the afternoon, only to drop back in late trading.

By the close of the day, the narrower Financial Times 30-share index was off 1.4 points at 1509.5.

The more broadly based Financial Times 500-share index was down 0.56 points at 1052.11.

### Disposal

Overall volume was a relatively healthy 561.8 million shares, compared with the 459.8 million traded yesterday. Of this number, shares in Lornho accounted for 67 million of the total.

The big news was that Bond Corp. had raised its stake in Lornho to 4.13 per cent and that New York arbitrageur Asher Edelman disposed of all of his Lornho shares, believed to be just shy of four per cent.

Edelman didn't say when the disposal was made adding only that the sales were made through the market and weren't made to a private investor or directly to

### Lornho

Dealers said they believe Edelman passed his stake into the market, where it was then scooped up by Bond, giving the Australian-based conglomerate just under 10 per cent of Lornho. Dealers were consumed by speculation over the motives of Bond Corp.

### Demand

Frankfurt shares reached 1988 highs, boosted by foreign interest in undervalued car stocks. Strong foreign demand also helped Milan shares to a record 1988 close in one of the year's most active trading sessions. Earlier, the Tokyo and Hong

Kong share markets closed lower, while Sydney firmed slightly.

Gold bullion closed in London at \$412.25 an ounce, unchanged from the previous day's finish.

Oil prices fell after a Saudi Arabian newspaper quoted United Arab Emirates Oil Minister Mansour bin Zayed as saying OPEC output totalled 21 to 22 million barrels daily, about four million barrels above the self-imposed ceiling.

Typical North Sea Brent blend crude for December delivery sold as low as \$13.23 a barrel, about 40 cents down from yesterday's US close.

## WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, Oct 18. (Reuters): Shares closed firmer but off the day's highs as profit-takers moved in, brokers said. The All Ordinaries index closed 4.1 points up at 1,571.0.

TOKYO: Prices closed down but slightly above their lows; in dull trade with no factors to pull them up. The Nikkei index lost 126.76 points, 0.46 per cent, to close at 27,141.98.

SINGAPORE: Share prices closed moderately higher across the board on continued bargain hunting and some institutional buying. The Straits Times industrial index rose 13.02 points to 1,016.09.

BOMBAY: Share prices rallied smartly on fresh institutional and investor demand in

moderate trading for the new account. Tata Steel rose 11.25 rupees to 947.5.

ZURICH: Swiss shares closed steady in moderate trading as Monday night's firmer Wall Street close and the stable dollar supported sentiment. The All-Share (Swiss) index closed 0.8 point higher at 924.13 points.

PARIS: French shares extended gains by midsession as the market recovered after Monday's one per cent drop, but volumes were thin. The 50-share bourse indicator was up 0.37 per cent by 1200 GMT.

LONDON: Equities showed an easier bias in late trading after a surprise early fall on Wall Street. The FTSE index at 1430 GMT was just 0.1 up at 1,860.1.

## Ford to build new engine plant in Wales

LONDON, Oct 18. (AP): Ford Motor Co. will spend £725 million (\$1.26 billion) to expand its plant at Bridgend, south Wales, to produce high technology engines, the government announced today.

Peter Walker, the British cabinet minister responsible for Wales, said Ford's announcement is the biggest foreign motor industry investment in Britain and would create thousands of jobs in a high unemployment area.

Walker said Ford's decision to invest in South Wales instead of Valencia, Spain, where the company also has a large existing engine plant, demonstrated Ford's faith in the Welsh workforce.

### Plant

For pulled out of plans in March to build a £40 million (\$69.6 million) electronics factory in Dundee, Scotland. The company said at the time it would build the plant in Spain instead because of local union opposition to having only one union at the plant.

Walker said that apart from creating or protecting 2,500 jobs at Bridgend and the nearby city of Swansea, about 3,500 people would be employed on constructing and installing the new plant, which is to be located beside the existing factory.

Ford calculated the move would also lead to more than 3,000 jobs in the component supply and other industries, Walker said.

About 60 per cent of Ford's Bridgend production would be exported, improving Britain's balance of payments by as much as £300 million (\$5.2 billion) a year, he said.

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# Unity in diversity in world of the ancients

The differences between the cultures of Egypt, Asia Minor, the Indus Valley, China and the Americas are among the most intriguing and mysterious objects of all research into the past — but the similarities are even more striking and speak strongly of the common characteristics of mankind.

By George Hill

IT MAY be true that nothing is inevitable except death and taxes. Archaeology tends to suggest that the list is longer. Human history unfolded for scores of generations in several widely-separated centres, with so little contact between them that they might almost have been on separate planets. In these conditions, the first great civilizations flowered, and in some cases faded away again.

The differences between the cultures of Egypt, Asia Minor, the Indus, China and the Americas, and the limited and intermittent contacts that existed between some of them, are among the most intriguing and mysterious objects of all research into the past.

But the similarities are even more striking, and speak strongly of the common characteristics of mankind. Taxes and death (or the urge to cherish the dead), war and subjugation, worship and grammar, woven textiles, fired pottery and ball games — they all appear in such widely-separated cultures that it is tempting to suppose that some deep impulse draws men towards them.

## Forced

Or it may be that they are forced to them by external circumstances. The case of the pyramid is one of the best-known examples of convergence of this kind. The formula of a huge artificial mountain rationalized to a strictly geometrical form appeared first in Egypt and in Mesopotamia soon after the first real civilizations emerged there. The two cultures took shape separately in the 4th century BC. They were almost 1,000 miles apart, and although trade routes existed between them quite early, the pyramid-form may well have appeared independently in both.

The first Egyptian pyramid, which was formed in steps and therefore looked more like a ziggurat than the later smooth-sided versions, certainly bears in its internal construction all the marks of those changes in plan which art historians call "pentimenti", and regard as evidence that a painting is original work.

The architect Imhotep — certainly the first great monumental architect in the world — initially built a conventional "mastaba" tomb for the pharaoh he served. It was shaped like a square of chocolate, with sloping walls. But Imhotep had placed it inside a great walled palace enclosure, and found that the tomb did not show above the walls. So he raised what was effectively a series of four mastabas, one on top of the other. Later he expanded the base to support not four layers, but six.

The city of Ur may have had a ziggurat from its early days, in about 4,500 BC, though the structure took its final form only when the city was rebuilt at the height of its power 2,500 years later. Unlike the masonry pyramids of Egypt, the Mesopotamian ziggurats were built of earth faced with mud-bricks.

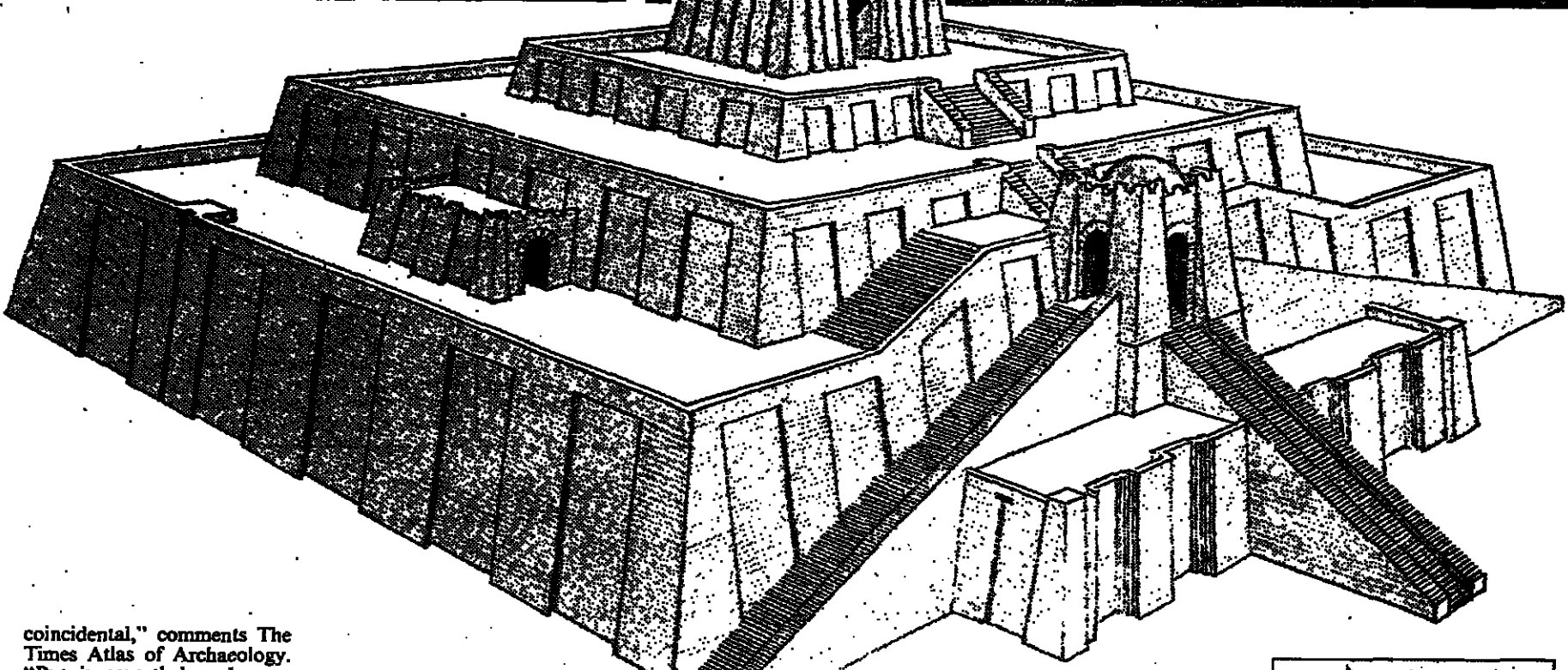
## Built

The people who built the ziggurat were ruled, like the Egyptians by a royal family who lived in the kind of luxury that only became possible in a highly organized, hierarchical society. The famous "rain in a bucket", carved from wood covered with gold and precious stones, and the dainty rein-ring from a sledge, are examples of the standard of craftsmanship attained in Ur.

Whether or not the Mesopotamians developed the form independently, there is no doubt that the Central Americans did. There is hardly any possibility of contact between them and the Old World, but the pyramidal structures they raised centuries later in many centres are so similar that some fantasists have insisted that flying saucers must have carried the blueprints across the Atlantic.

The American pyramids, the first of which were built before 300 BC and the last more than 1,000 years later, resemble ziggurats even more closely than they do pyramids, both in form and function. Most of them are terraced, with flights of steps up to the summit. The Egyptian pyramids were tombs, with no continuing ritual function, while in the other two centres they had temples at the top.

"The similarity ... is partly



coincidental," comments The Times Atlas of Archaeology. "But it nevertheless demonstrates the importance of certain common requirements in the design, function and symbolism of monumental ritual structures ... The tapering pyramid shape reduced the risk of collapse and at the same time enhanced the impression of height. Height had a strong symbolic significance."

## Privilege

The form also spoke of privilege. The priests stood in the sky, closer to the gods, while the common people remained below. The structure's bulk tacitly expressed the fact that someone had the power to compel huge numbers of others to labour over the monument. Work on the Great Pyramid of Cheops or Khufu must have

been carried out in the four-month period each year when the Nile was in flood and farmers were idle. Its masonry blocks weigh an average of 2.5 tonnes.

It can be estimated that over the 23 years of Khufu's reign, 1,100 blocks would have to be quarried, transported and erected in each working day in order to complete the pyramid in time for Khufu's burial. The Atlas says. After Khufu's time, a series of feeble Nile floods reduced Egypt's prosperity, and, therefore the dominance of its kings. More modest forms of burial became customary, and tomb-robbing had probably rifled all the pyramids within 500 years of Khufu's

death. The imperatives of a certain form of autocratic society, pre-occupied with ritual and display, tended to produce uncannily similar results in their buildings. The pyramid-form itself was not stamped into man's subconscious, but the tendency

to form societies which found similar solutions to similar problems must have been.

Like separate worlds, the first great civilizations rose and developed with only tenuous contacts between them, even though the appetite for rich and strange objects led them to exchange amber, ivory, gold and silk over immense distances at an early stage. In the fertile valleys of major rivers such as the Nile, the Euphrates, the Indus and the Yellow River, and in the Americas, organized societies took shape, and produced superb works of art and architecture which are immensely diverse, yet constantly express the same basic imperatives.

Sometimes it did not happen. Some highly developed civilizations in the Americas never stumbled on the art of writing, and some never discovered the wheel (possibly, though, that implies only that in the high Andes, the wheel may never have looked very useful).

## Ingenuity

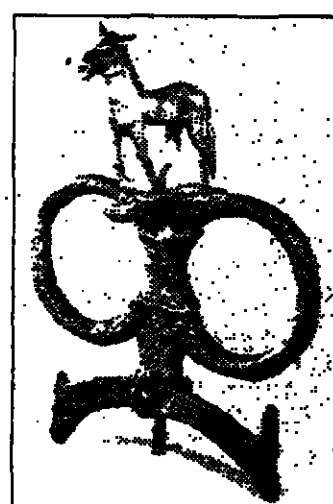
As they applied their ingenuity to the physical world, people repeatedly hit on solutions which were fundamentally the same as those being found thousands of miles away. The first technique of metalworking — using heat to separate the metal from the ore — seems to have been made separately in western Asia and southeastern Europe, and in the Far East. The art of making pottery waterproof by firing it perhaps appeared first in Japan, but it was invented independently in several other centres at later periods. The same is true of weaving fabric, and of many of the basic skills of agriculture.

And the most characteristic invention of civilized man, the art of writing, took shape independently at least three times, and probably more, among peoples in the Near East, China and America. Their ancestors had gone separate ways since the early Stone Age. In some sense, paleolithic men must already have had writing potentially in them, to pass the faculty on to their widely-separated descendants.

As time passed, the primary civilizations reached out under the same impulses which had caused prehistoric man to colonize the habitable world. Their mutual contacts and influences increased — sometimes peacefully, sometimes with great violence.

The last high civilization to exist hermetically sealed off from the others was that of the Americas, and the confrontation between it and the first interlopers from the European world, in the 16th century, was so shattering that the cultures which had grown up in isolation for nearly 20,000 years virtually disappeared in a generation.

The Times Atlas of Archaeology is published by Times Books (£29.50).



The pyramid-form itself was not stamped into man's subconscious, but the tendency

## Polish up your psychic powers

British medium, psychometrist and psychic Lee Lacey believes that many people have psychic powers but need to take the time to develop their gift. Here he explains his strange experiences as a psychic and how he first nurtured his talent for contact with the spirit world.

By Marina Shamoon

HAVE you ever started thinking about a friend and then the phone rings and they are on the line? Have you ever felt a sudden pain or headache — then discovered someone you know or love has fallen ill? Or have you ever had a premonition that something is going to happen — good or bad — and it does?

If you have, you could well be psychic. Some people dismiss these feelings as a coincidence, but they could mean you have psychic powers. And if you do, how do you go about developing these powers?

British medium Lee Lacey, 54, says: "Most people are sensitive to vibrations. In primitive times man communicated by thought just as animals do."

"I never called my cats. I always sent out a thought that said, 'Dinner is ready.' Their ears would prick up and they would be on their way. It never failed."

It is possible to develop psychic ability but it takes time. You would need to go to a spiritualist church, or have regular sessions with a psychic or medium to harness your psychic ability. You must first learn to be in tune with the spiritualist world.

Lee, who lives in Nottingham, says: "People come to me

and say, 'I want to become a psychic, medium or healer — do you do a six week course?' That is ludicrous. It took me 13 years of sitting with a medium regularly for about two hours a day."

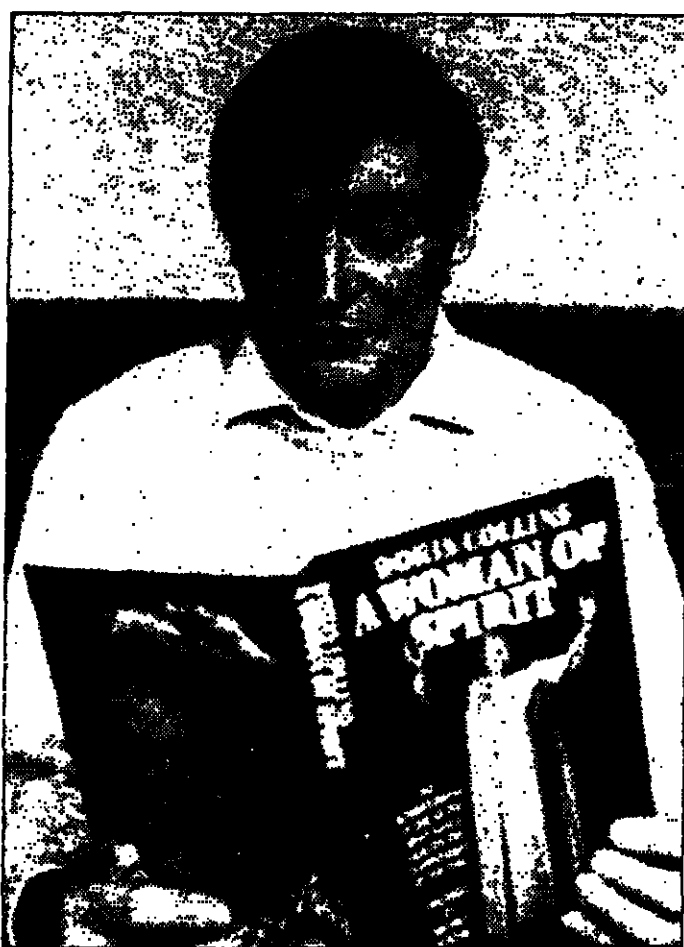
"But we are in an age of instant everything. People who want a cup of coffee stir in a spoon of instant coffee. If they want real coffee, it takes time. People come to see Lee if they want to make contact with loved ones on 'The Other Side', to seek advice on relationships or find what the future holds for them."

Lee says: "Sometimes people have come to consult me over a particular problem and have walked out screaming and calling me names because they didn't like what they heard. Then they have come back later to say, 'You were absolutely right.'"

## Psychometry

Lee is also trained in psychometry. He maintains that everyone leaves a part of themselves on their personal possessions, such as a ring or a watch. By holding the object in his hands, Lee is able to tell the character of the person.

To find out if you have the potential to become a psychometrist, collect five watches or rings from your friends and see how many of the characters you can interpret correctly. If it is two or more then you could well develop your psy-



Psychometrist Lee Lacey reads a book by fellow medium Doris Collins.

chometric ability. Some people seem to have a sixth sense about people. Their first impressions on meeting people are normally accurate.

Lee says: "People have an atmosphere about them. When you walk into a room, there are people you instantly like because they have a sunny personality and there are others who you feel are cold and distant."

As well as being a psychic, a medium and a psychometrist,

Lee is a spiritual healer too.

He says: "A 19-year-old man came to see me. He had been suffering from serious epilepsy and was taking a number of drugs to relieve his condition."

"He visited me once a week. I transferred the healing power from my hands to his body. After six months, he only took one pill. He went on to university and doesn't have fits anymore."

"Once a couple came to me because they wanted to make

contact with their teenage son who had died in a motorcycle accident. He was able to tell him what happened exactly and also that it was nobody's fault. The love that was flowing between the parents and their son made me cry."

Three days later, the boy appeared beside me in his motorcycle gear and said, 'I just wanted to say thanks.'

"On another occasion two women came to see me and I said to one, 'Your husband is suffering from a heart condition.' She said, 'He doesn't tell me he is ill, but I've had my suspicions.'"

## Nervous

"She was nervous of telling her husband to go and see the doctor because she was afraid of what his reaction would be. She convinced him to see the doctor who told him that if he had left it for another week he would have died."

About his forays into the spirit world, Lee says: "It is like switching on a television set in my head. I meditate and say a prayer for help. I then describe the picture that comes through and when it is over, I switch off. If I didn't do that I wouldn't be able to stay sane."

Some people who feel nervous or insecure consult Lee to plan their lives ahead. But Lee stresses that a psychic or medium's role isn't to make decisions for people.

He says: "If a girl came to me and said, for example, that there were two men in her life and she didn't know which one to marry, I couldn't tell her which one to choose. I would point out the good and bad qualities of both and leave the decision to her."

"And I won't allow people to become dependent on my advice. If they call me a few days after they've had a sitting with me, I simply say that I have nothing more to add."

Lee became involved in spiritualism 30 years ago when he went with a few friends to a meeting one day.



Vitronic is a computer keyboard on which one types through an insulated window while remaining outside a shop or reception hall.

## Vitronic: an intelligent shop window

By Frederic Seigneur

FROM now on, it will be unnecessary to go inside a shop or block of offices for information on the products or services offered. Thanks to "Vitronic," invented by a French company, the customer will be able to obtain all the information he wants, day and night, while remaining outside the shop or reception hall of administrative offices.

"Vitronic" is a computer keyboard with 12, 16, or 48 keys on which one types through a reinforced or insulated window which can be up to 3 centimetres thick.

There is thus no direct contact between the customer and this new instrument. Vitronic detects the approach of a finger and not its contact.

The user "types" through the window, on the keyboard. Then, depending on the kind of equipment Vitronic is linked up to (television screen, sound

generator, slide projector, video cassette player, Minitel terminal, or videodisc), he obtains the audio-visual presentation of the products or information he is interested in: still pictures, texts or films. In view of its being interactive, and the fact that it is compatible with different existing computer networks, Vitronic can be connected up to any database.

Vitronic has numerous applications. Thus, a city-dweller or tourist can instantly obtain information, from a public stand or the window of a tourist information office, about emergency services, administrative and social centres, city transport, details of the city street map, a list and tariffs of hotels and restaurants and the times of opening of various monuments and centres of interest, as well as details about leisure and entertainment offered, for which, thanks to the same installation, he can book his seat.

Vitronic is also aimed at all kinds of commerce and particularly at banks and estate agencies. This piece of equipment can also be used for typing the code for opening an electronic door and for leaving a message in case of absence.

The main interest of Vitronic is obvious: sheltered behind its window, the whole installation is out of reach of adverse weather conditions or possible damage. It can thus also be used in risky, hostile or corrosive environments, for instance, under the sea or in the chemicals industry where man and machine have to be separated by a water- or air-tight partition.

The Vitronic Company, operating from Castanet-Tolosan, in the suburbs of Toulouse, the metropolis in the south-west of France, tested its invention for nearly two years, before marketing it in early 1988. Its minimum price is 4,000 francs and it requires no particular installations.



# ARAB TIMES Classifieds

## ACCOMMODATION

### Available

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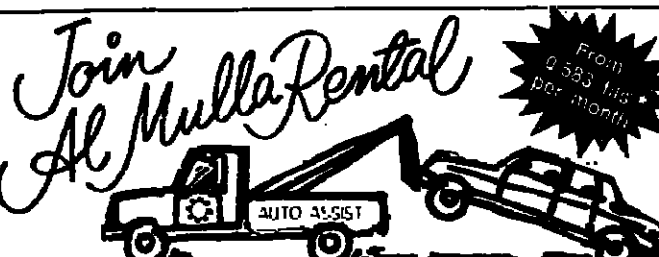
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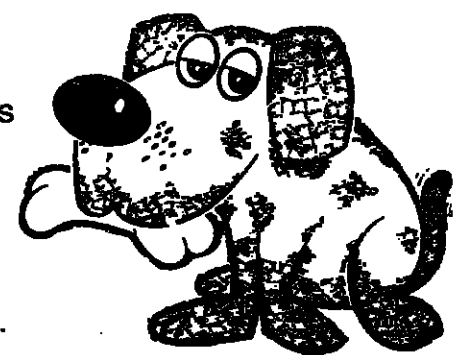
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## Becker outplays Seguso

TOKYO, Oct 18, (UPI): Boris Becker, playing his first tournament in six weeks, advanced to the second round of the \$617,500 Japan Indoor Men's Championships with a 6-4, 6-3 win today over American Robert Seguso.

Fourth-seeded Australian Darren Cahill, a US Open semifinalist, continued his disappointing results from the last four weeks when he was upset by Japan's Shuzo Matsuoka 7-6 (8-6), 6-1.

Third-seeded Andres Gomez of Ecuador produced some accurate passing shots to defeat Joey Rive of the United States 6-4, 6-4, and eighth-seeded American Dan Goldie posted a hard fought, three-set victory over Australian John Frawley 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Top seed and defending champion Stefan Edberg opens the defence of his title tomorrow against best-serving American Todd Nelson.

Becker, the tournament's second seed, raced to a 3-1 lead in the first set but suffered a slight lapse in rhythm and allowed Seguso back into the match before taking control once more with overpowering serves.

**Moving**  
"I thought I served quite well," said Becker. "In the beginning everything was going quickly and so fast that I had to get used to it."

Becker kept Seguso, who arrived from Florida only 24 hours earlier, on the run by moving from side to side with ground strokes that were hit hard and deep.

The American has a tendency to go for his shots, but Becker just blunted his attack by cutting off the angles with blistering returns.

The 20-year-old West German moved around the court without effort, showing no signs of the foot injuries that forced him to withdraw from the Canadian Open in August and prevented him from playing in the Olympic games three weeks ago.

"Physically I am 100 per cent fit," he said. "That's the best I have moved for seven weeks, and if I can serve like I did, then I don't think the rest of my game will take long to come back."

"It is just a matter of time and playing matches and I should be in good form quickly," he said.

In other results, West German Eric Jelen and Carl-Uwe Steeb reached the second round in straight sets.

Jelen dismissed Soviet Andrei Olhovskiy 6-3, 6-2 and Steeb defeated Australian Mark Woodforde 6-3, 7-5.

## Myers stripped of records for steroid use

ST LOUIS, Oct 18, (Reuter): Angel Myers, who was dropped from the US Olympic swimming team after testing positive for steroid use, has been stripped of her American records and barred from competition for 16 months.

The three-member US Swimming Review Board yesterday banned her from domestic and international competition retroactive from August 8 until January, 1990.

Myers was also stripped of her American records and ordered to return the medals won at the Olympic trials in August. The board also ordered her to undergo at least three random drug tests a year until 1993.

## Union edge Bright Stars, Siddiqui blast Morning Star

# Capri and YMCA score easy wins

CAPRI Cricket Club maintained its winning run with a 53-run victory over Kokan Cricket Club in a Rothmans Royals knock-out tournament match in Ahmadi earlier this week.

In the other matches of the same tournament, Union beat Bright Stars by two wickets. YMCA crushed Al Mulla by 138 runs and Siddiqui defeated Morning Star by five wickets.

An excellent innings of 55 from Adnan, an unbeaten 52 by Raju, 31 by Salim, 35 by Sarfraz and an unbeaten 21 by Nareesh saw Capri reach 224 for the loss of seven wickets in 30 overs.

**Support**  
For Kokan, Badar Khatib took two wickets for 23 while Aslam also got two and Ibrar and Qasim one each.

Zakaria and Ibrahim scored 29 before Irfan sent both of them back to the pavilion. Irfan took six wickets for 25 runs in only six overs as Kokan were all out for 171. Irfan got some good support from Sarfraz who took two wickets for 16. Javed was the top Kokan scorer with 40.

At the Oval, Bright Stars met an early setback when Aslam was bowled by Kafaid. Two more quick wickets by Kafaid put Union firmly in the saddle. Sheh-

## ENGLAND SET OUT TO RESTORE PRIDE

# West Germans seek revenge against Dutch

MUNICH, West Germany, Oct 18, (Reuter): Only West German coach Franz Beckenbauer, a man used to standing alone against the tide, does not regard tomorrow's key World Cup soccer qualifier against the Netherlands as a grudge match.

"We harbour no feelings of hatred or desire for revenge," Beckenbauer said as his team prepared for the game, less than three months after they were beaten on home soil in the European Championship semifinals by the Dutch.

That match in Hamburg finally allowed the Netherlands to exorcise their 1974 World Cup final loss to West Germany. Despite Beckenbauer's words, now it is the West Germans' turn to try to avenge an historic defeat.

New Dutch coach Thijs Libregts recognised the hostile atmosphere surrounding the European Group Four clash in Munich's Olympic stadium — scene of both West Germany's 1974 World Cup final triumph and the Netherlands' European Championship final win over the Soviet Union in June.

The Germans are out for revenge, Libregts said. With only one team sure of going through from the qualifying group to the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy, the match has also been billed as a do-or-die affair with Beckenbauer's job in particular on the line.

The Dutch will be without captain and star Ruud Gullit, still not fit after an ankle injury, but otherwise will field most of the team which played so brilliantly in winning the European Championship.

The Netherlands struggled in defeating Wales 1-0 in their first

World Cup qualifier last month. But Libregts insisted key striker Marco van Basten — clubmate of Gullit and defender Frank Rijkaard at Italian League leaders AC Milan — "is in much better condition than against Wales."

A key factor in tomorrow's match will be Van Basten's renewed duel with West German stopper Juergen Kohler, who did everything to smother the Dutchman in their Hamburg encounter until Van Basten popped up to score the winner with only a minute left to play.

Newcomer Thomas Haessler, who shone in West Germany's 4-0 win over Finland in their first World Cup qualifier six weeks ago, has the task of combining with captain Lothar Matthaeus and Olaf Thon to create a midfield that can overrun the Dutch.

In London, England will be keen to banish the memory of their dismal performance at the European Soccer Championship finals when they meet Sweden tomorrow.

They lost all three matches in West Germany after arriving among the favourites, and last month's 1-0 victory over Denmark at Wembley in a friendly did little more than stop the rot. Only a convincing victory over Sweden in the European Group Two tie will satisfy England's disillusioned supporters.

However, that is unlikely to be achieved easily as England have not beaten the Swedes for 20 years. Sweden proved their calibre at international level earlier this year by winning a four-nation tournament involving West Germany, Argentina and the Soviet Union.

With such players as Glenn



Gullit: to miss the match

Hyden and Peter Larsson in defence, Glenn Stromberg and Robert Prytz in midfield and Hans Holmquist in attack, they can boast an array of stars to match any team in Europe.

In Swansea, Wales, Everton defender Kevin Ratcliffe will be determined to resurrect his nation's World Cup hopes tomorrow when he returns from a nine-month injury-enforced absence to lead Wales against Finland.

Ratcliffe has played only two senior matches since recovering from a hernia problem but will relieve Liverpool striker Ian Rush of the captaincy when man-

ager Terry Yorath names his side for Wales' second Group Four tie.

The Welsh, beaten 1-0 by European champions the Netherlands in their opening encounter in the four-team group last month, are sure to be boosted by the return of Ratcliffe, capped 43 times, and his club colleague Pat van den Hauwe at the heart of the defence.

As well as recalling the two key defenders, Yorath is expected to alter the side beaten by the Dutch by making two changes in midfield in search of the right support for striking partners Rush and Manchester United marks-

man Mark Hughes.

Rush scored twice as Wales crushed Finland 4-0 in a European Championship qualifying tie two years ago and Yorath knows a repeat performance is essential if the Welsh are to have any hope of reaching the 1990 finals in Italy.

Finland crashed 4-0 at home to West Germany in their opening tie last month and coach Jukka Vakkila expects to select from a full-strength, 16-man squad.

In Glasgow, Scotland will be anxious to mark Willie Miller's 63rd international appearance — a record for a Scottish defender — with a win over Yugoslavia in the World Cup European Group Five tie at Hampden Park.

Miller, who made his international debut against Romania in 1975, thought his chance of passing Danny McGrain's 62 caps had gone when he lost his place through injury midway through the last European Championship programme.

Now he has his sights set on playing in the 1990 World Cup finals before he hangs up his boots. "At international level two years is a long time. But age doesn't matter if your form is still good," Miller said.

**Rates**  
The Aberdeen defender is one of only three Scots' certainties for the tie against a side which, despite erratic form, manager Andy Roxburgh rates as one of the best in Europe.

While the Scots will be looking to build on their 2-1 triumph over Norway in Oslo last month, Yugoslavia will be making their first appearance in the group.

They warmed up for their World Cup qualifying

programme with a 2-1 away win over Spain last month, but striker Zlatko Vujovic sounded a pessimistic note ahead of the trip to Glasgow when he said that the Yugoslavs could afford to lose their opening group match.

Coach Ivica Osim's main worry is over the fitness of striker Boro Cvetkovic who plays for Italian club Ascoli.

And in Budapest, Hungary will mix the midfield flair of Lajos Detari with hard-tackling defenders Imre Garaba and Antal Nagy tomorrow to stop Northern Ireland in their tracks and launch their own bid for World Cup glory.

Northern Ireland have made an impressive start to their qualifying campaign in Group Six by taking three points out of four with a 3-0 win over Malta and a goalless draw with Ireland.

**Countering**  
But Hungarian coach Gyorgy Mezey has selected the two tough defenders in a bid to halt Northern Ireland's march towards Italy by countering what he sees as the visitors' triple threat — midfielder Danny Wilson and strikers Niall Quinn and Colin Clarke.

Mezey has clearly been impressed by Wilson's ability to release Quinn and Clarke into the action "like two tanks," and is using the experienced Garaba and versatile Nagy to bolster Hungary's hopes of taking two points from their opening tie.

Nagy, out of favour after his involvement in a bribery scandal but now seen as essential because of his height, will steady the hosts at the back while Detari and Gyorgy Bognar of French club Toulon will create the openings up front.

## Injury-hit Bulgaria face Romania in opener

SOFIA, Oct 18, (Reuter): Injury-hit Bulgaria will want to reverse the historical trend of defeat against Romania tomorrow when the pair clash in a World Cup soccer qualifying tie.

The Bulgarians have beaten the Romanians just nine times in 35 meetings. But coach Boris Angelov knows that a 10th win here could launch his side towards victory in Group One and guarantee a place in the 1990 finals in Italy.

**Action**  
Triumph will not come easily though. Bulgaria will go into the group's opening round of action with their best players watching from the sidelines.

Star striker Nasko Sirakov, defender Georgi Dimitrov and key midfielder Bozidar Iskrenov have all been ruled out by injury yet Angelov remains optimistic.

"We have some problems with injuries but this is the national side and all 16 boys play strongly," he said.

Angelov needs a good win to boost Bulgarian soccer after two years of turmoil.

But the Romanians, who have beaten Bulgaria 20 times, will select from a full-strength squad and should win comfortably if the match goes to form.

Trainer Emerich Jenei was in confident mood in the countdown to the tie: "At the moment I have no problems — they usually start after the match begins," he joked.

But like Angelov, Jenei could see the value of a solid, early win in a group which also includes Denmark and Greece and is regarded as wide open.

**Happen**

"In our group all the teams have an equal chance and anything can happen," he said.

The Romanians are sure to rely heavily on midfield maestro Gheorghe Hagi while Marius Lacatus will lead the search for goals up front.

## Iceland to meet E. Germany

EAST BERLIN, Oct 18, (Reuter): East Germany, who last played in the final stages of the World Cup in 1974, will find Iceland in buoyant mood when they open their bid to reach the 1990 finals tomorrow.

Iceland, for so long the whipping boys of European soccer, have drawn their opening two European Group Three ties.

They followed August's splen-

did 1-1 draw with heavyweights the Soviet Union in Reykjavik by holding Turkey 1-1 in Istanbul last week and the East Germans will underestimate them at their peril.

East German trainer Bernd Stange is expected to entrust the main role of breaking down the Icelandic defence to Dynamo Berlin striker Andreas Thom.



Nicholson (3rd right) being introduced to the teams.

## KIFCO outclass NBK

KIFCO crushed NBK Cricket Club by 98 runs in the opening match of the Pirelli Trophy, being organised by the Kuwait Cricket League, earlier this week.

KIFCO batted first, after the tournament had been opened by the area manager of the Pirelli Construction Company — Jerry Nicholson, and opened their innings through Arshad Shams and Tariq Anjum.

**Remained**  
The openers got into their stride very early, taking about seven runs per over, and were doing quite well until Arshad was out for 41. He hit two sixes and two fours. Tariq was out nine

runs later for 44.

Pervez Aslam hammered eight sixes in his 87 before being bowled by Waheed. Aqueel remained unbeaten on 45 and Mansoor was not out on 15 as KIFCO reached 260 for the loss of only four wickets. For NBK, Sajid took three wickets for 39.

NBK made a valiant bid to keep up with the run-rate but it proved too much for them and they were all out for 164 in the 25th over. Sajid was the highest scorer with 47 while Abid hit 40 and Abdul Latif 25.

For KIFCO, Rifat took four wickets for 18 runs while Shahid got three for 38.

## ANC holds talks on S. African soccer

LUSAKA, Oct 18, (Reuter): The African National Congress switched from rugby to soccer today in its new, piecemeal assault on racial barriers in South African sport.

Leaders of the South African National Soccer League braved the Pretoria government's certain wrath by travelling to Zambia for talks with the outlawed ANC about sponsorship, foreign players and setting up a single, non-racial soccer body.

They were following the precedent set last weekend, when South African rugby administrators held similar talks in Zimbabwe and won a promise that the ANC would help end international isolation of the country's rugby if the sport is run on non-racial lines.

The ANC is the main black guerrilla group fighting white rule in South Africa.

Its new approach — tackling sport as a separate issue and sports bodies one at a time — risks wrong-footing other anti-apartheid groups, who have long pressed an across-the-board boycott under the slogan that there could be "no normal sport in an abnormal society."

**Endorsement**

The Organisation of African Unity and the South African Non-racial Olympic Committee, a London-based lobby group, gave a cautious endorsement to the rugby meeting but said their aim of totally isolating South African sport had not changed.

There has been no comment yet from the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa based in Yaounde, Cameroon.

The ANC says the talks with South African sports bodies are an extension of its campaign to win support among all social, political and racial groups in the country.

"It's part of the general process of the struggle against apartheid," ANC spokesman Tom Sebina told Reuters in Lusaka.

Sebina said South Africa's soccer establishment, which unlike rugby is already largely racially integrated, was also seeking to break out of international isolation.

The four-man National Soccer League delegation was led by league chairman Rodgers Sibisi. They met senior ANC officials including information and publicity secretary Thabo Mbeki and a high-ranking member of the military wing, Steve Tshwete.

## Poland look to Smolarek for goals

WARSAW, Oct 18, (Reuter): Poland will be looking to Feyenoord striker Wlodzislaw Smolarek to lead them on a scoring spree against Albania tomorrow as they begin their bid to reach their fifth successive World Cup soccer finals.

Smolarek was the tough, burly forward who scored Poland's solitary goal in the 1986 finals in Mexico and is expected to shoulder the responsibility of his nation's challenge in qualifying Group Two, which also includes England and Sweden.

Polish coach Wojciech Lazarek is well aware victory over the group's weakest team is essential. The margin of triumph could also be vital with the battle for the one sure qualifying place certain to be tight.

But the precedents are not good for the Poles.

The Albanians held them to a 2-2 draw in their last World Cup qualifier here in 1984 and Lazarek said: "Nothing but a victory will do. We cannot afford to drop any stupid points in a group which includes England and Sweden."

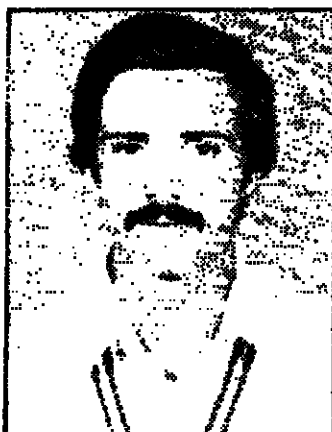
Poland are expected to use an adventurous 3-4-3 formation but will be without leading striker Dariusz Dzikowski.

## Piontek puts faith in new players

ATHENS, Oct 18, (Reuter): Odense striker Lars Elstrup, who scored twice in the 2-1 victory over Sweden in August, is expected to be one of the new generation of players Sepp Piontek puts his faith in when Denmark open their World Cup qualifying programme against Greece tomorrow.

Piontek was forced into a rebuilding operation after Denmark's ageing side stumbled to three defeats in the European championship finals in West Germany in the summer.

He admitted he had no idea how his new-look side, missing players of the calibre of Preben Elkjaer and Soeren Lerby, would perform in the European Group One tie at Athens Olympic stadium.



Shehzad Snr: hit 56

zad Snr and Jamil both tied down all the Bright Stars' batsmen except Mohammed Ali who kept the scoreboard moving. Ajit and Ali took the score from 56 for five to 149 before the latter was out for 61. All hit seven fours and a six.

Ajit was out after scoring 40 but Robin (25) and Ahmed (15) took the Bright Stars' score to 192 in 26 overs.

Requiring 193 for victory, Union lost their first wickets when Mehboob was out for 18. Shehzad Snr and Jamil put on 54 runs before Jamil was out for 24.



Irfan: six for 25

Shehzad Snr and Shehzad Jnr then took all the Bright Stars bowlers to task, putting on 78 runs for the third wicket. Shehzad Snr was out for 56 with the total score at 140.

Azham hit a quickfire 29 before Shehzad Jnr (47 not out) and Arshad took Union past the target with two wickets to spare.

The YMCA-Al Mulla match was one-sided with YMCA hammering 251 for six in 30 overs. YMCA had got a good start with the openers slamming 50 runs in the first six overs before Remy was out for 25.



Alijazz: scored 42

Naeem and was stumped for 42. Sethi and Remy improved the position further scoring 41 and 37 respectively.

Chris chipped in with 20 as HCC scored 195 for eight in their 25 allotted overs. For Crown, Mukesh took four wickets while Ejaz got three and Naeem one.

Crown started their innings with a flourish with Zulfiqar hitting 41. Ashraf scored 18 but the other failed to find an answer to the accurate HCC bowling and were all out for 96.

Ronnie took three wickets for 12 while Rony got three wickets off only 10 deliveries.

HCC will now meet BTCC in the final.

## LOCAL CRICKET

### Shipton to lead both local sides

CRAIG SHIPTON, named captain of the Great Britain XI to play the British Airways touring side earlier this week, has also been named as skipper of the Ahmadi XI squad.

The Ahmadi XI will take on the visitors on Friday while the Great Britain-British Airways match will be on Sunday.

These matches are being jointly organised by the British Airways, Yusuf Al Ghanim Electronics Group and the Sheraton Hotel. The tour is to celebrate the opening of the Kuwait-Madras route by the British Airways.

**Appearances**

The main attraction at both these matches will be the appearances of the two former Test players — Farokh Engineer and Don Wilson. They will be taking part in both the games.

The first game will start at 9.30 am at the New Ground, Ahmadi, and will be played over 45 overs each.

Ahmadi XI: Craig Shipton (captain), Patrick Flower, Rameesh Chanoran, Mahmoud Bastaki, Peter Jerome James, Sajid Raza, Derrick Almeida, Amjad Ali Khan, Sakawat Ali, Mukesh Kumar, Ralph de Neise, Chris Amaraekera and Andrew Pinto.

### Entries open for badminton tourney

THE All-Kuwait Open Badminton Tournament, to be held under the patronage of the Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem is scheduled to start at the KOC Sports Centre (Ahmadi) on Nov 19.

The last date for entries will be Nov 5. Entry forms can be obtained at the KOC Sports Centre or the Hubara Club reception. For further information contact John Crampsie, Tel 3926847 (office hours) or Elie Saliba, Tel 3983172 (4.00 to 9.00 pm).



## SPORTS BRIEFS

## Carter out

LONDON, Oct 18, (Reuter): English Football League president Philip Carter, the chairman of Everton, was voted out of office today after a row over his role in moves to set up a breakaway "Super League." Arsenal vice-chairman David Dein also lost his place on the League management committee.

## WBA convention

PORLAMAR, Venezuela, Oct 18, (Reuter): The World Boxing Association opened its annual convention yesterday with WBA president Gilberto Mendoza of Venezuela struggling to retain office despite a strong challenge from Luis Batista Salas of Puerto Rico.

## NFL game

NEW YORK, Oct 18, (Reuter): Result of National Football League (NFL) game played yesterday: Buffalo Bills 37 New York Jets 14

## IOC member

LONDON, Oct 18, (Reuter): International Olympic Committee (IOC) medical commission member Arnold Beckett said yesterday that he understood the "frustration and anger" felt by British sprinter Linford Christie over his drugs at the Seoul Olympics.

## World bridge

VENICE, Italy, Oct 18, (Reuter): Greece, Austria, the United States and Sweden have qualified for the World Bridge Olympiad quarterfinals which begin tomorrow.

## Joyner-Kersey

NEW YORK, Oct 18, (AP): Jackie Joyner-Kersey, who won two gold medals at the Summer Olympics, was named Amateur Sportsman of the Year by the Women's Sports Foundation.

## Paris-Dakar

PARIS, Oct 18, (Reuter): The organisers of the 1988 Paris-Dakar rally are thinking of re-routing the race to avoid Algeria because of the recent unrest there, the French sports newspaper L'Equipe said today.

## Fans arrested

MILAN, Italy, Oct 18, (AP): Police announced today the arrest of two Major League soccer fans in connection with Oct 9 riots at Ascoli in which a supporter of rival team was fatally beaten.

## Michael Fay

FREMANTLE, Australia, Oct 18, (Reuter): New Zealand's Michael Fay has entered a crew for December's inaugural World Match-racing Championships which will feature many of yachting's most illustrious skippers.

## BRIDGE

RESULTS of the Dunhill Bridge Tournament (3rd week) played at the Hilton Hotel on Monday: N/S:

1. Sapre & Gajjar
2. Stern & Ezekiel
3. Dr Messari & Tibab
- E/W
1. Mrs Sapre & Imam
- and Amara & Jaggi
3. Capt Salman Ali & Simon

## WASIM SINKS PRE-TOURNAMENT FAVOURITES

## Pakistan crush W. Indies

SHARJAH, Oct 18, (Reuter): An inspired innings by skipper Javed Miandad and hostile pace bowling by Wasim Akram helped Pakistan crush the West Indies by 84 runs in the Sharjah Champions Trophy today.

Set the daunting task of bettering Pakistan's 294 for six wickets, the West Indies managed only 210 for five in their allotted 50 overs despite an unbeaten 102 by opener Gordon Greenidge.

It was the second straight defeat for the pre-tournament favourites, who last Sunday were beaten by India by 23 runs.

Pakistan owed most of their competition record total to openers Mudassar Nazar and Rameez Raja, who put on 113 runs in quick time. Each scored 64 and each was dismissed by a Jeff Dujon stumping.

After their departure, Miandad proved himself the master, tearing into the West Indies pace attack to hammer 79 off 68 deliveries, including three sixes and three fours.

His third wicket alliance with Salim Malik realised 99 runs in just over 11 overs.

Miandad was particularly tough on Patrick Patterson, who was hit for 19 runs in an over, including two sixes and a four off successive deliveries. The fast bowler conceded 72 runs in his eight overs.



Dujon about to sweep the ball off as Mudassar misses the line of the ball. (Reuter wirephoto)

A total of 300 looked likely until the dismissal of Miandad—caught by Carl Hooper off paceman Courtney Walsh—and Salim Malik checked the Pakistani gallop. But Pakistan still recorded the highest score for Sharjah 50-over international matches.

A hostile spell of bowling by fit-again Wasim Akram effectively prevented the West Indies from making a match of it. Wasim, who was later named Man of the Match, dismissed Desmond Haynes, Richie

Richardson and Hooper in his first six overs to reduce the West Indies to 24 for three.

Greenidge stood firm, but the task was beyond the West Indies who once again badly missed injured skipper Viv Richards.

Later the West Indies, who still have a chance of making the final, opted for batting practice with Greenidge completing his century in the last over of the day, which was bowled by Miandad.

Pakistan play India tomorrow with the winner going on to the final on Saturday. The losers

meet the West Indies in a match to decide the second finalists on Friday.

## Scoreboard

PAKISTAN  
M. Nazar c Dujon b Hooper ..... 64  
R. Raja c Dujon b Hooper ..... 64  
J. Miandad c Hooper b Walsh ..... 79  
S. Malik c Dujon b Patterson ..... 42  
E. Ahmed c Patterson b Ambrose ..... 16  
M. Elahi c Bishop b Ambrose ..... 12  
W. Akram not out ..... 2  
S. Younis not out ..... 9  
Extras (b-2 lb-3 w-3 nb-2) ..... 15  
Total (six wickets - 50 overs) ..... 294  
Fall of wickets: 1-113 2-153 3-252 4-278 5-281 6-294  
Did not bat: S. Mohammed, A. Qadir, T. Ahmed.  
Bowling: Patterson 9-6-72-1, Ambrose 9-3-41-2, Walsh 7-0-36-1, Bishop 6-0-47-0, Hooper 10-0-40-1, Hooper 10-0-40-1.

WEST INDIES  
G. Greenidge not out ..... 102  
D. Haynes c and b Akram ..... 1  
R. Richardson c Miandad b Akram ..... 6  
C. Hooper c Younis b Akram ..... 0  
A. Laurie run out ..... 12  
J. Dujon c Akram b Mudassar ..... 22  
R. Harper not out ..... 22  
Extras (b-1 lb-17 w-2 nb-10) ..... 30  
Total (five wickets - 50 overs) ..... 210  
Fall of wickets: 1-12 2-24 3-24 4-74 5-146  
Did not bat: C. Ambrose, P. Patterson, C. Walsh, I. Bishop.  
Bowling: Wasim 9-0-37-3, Elahi 10-0-40-0, Tameem Ahmed 10-0-21-0, Mudassar 10-0-40-1, Qadir 10-0-35-0, Miandad 1-0-11-0.  
Result: Pakistan won by 84 runs.  
Next match: Pakistan v India October 19.

## Tyson ready to knock out Bruno in two weeks

CARACAS, Oct 18, (Reuter): Mike Tyson popped up in Venezuela yesterday and said nothing would get in the way of his knocking out British challenger Frank Bruno in two weeks.

"In two weeks I'll be ready and I'll knock Bruno out," the undisputed world heavyweight boxing champion told reporters at Simon Bolivar international airport.

Asked if his much-publicised divorce from actress Robin Givens would affect his boxing performance, Tyson answered: "I feel great. I don't have no problems, just that my hand hurts."

Tyson, his right hand in a cast, arrived shortly before midnight (0400 GMT) with promoter Don King en route to a meeting of the World Boxing Association (WBA) on the Venezuelan resort island of Margarita.

Tyson fractured his hand in a street brawl with boxer Mitch Green in Harlem two months ago and injured it again while working out on a heavyweight bag at King's farm near Cleveland.

Tyson said the injury would not prevent him from fighting Bruno, who arrived in New York yesterday with his manager and British boxing promoters to settle a date and venue for the fight, which has now been postponed three times.

Neither King nor Tyson indicated whether they had met Bruno or his manager before coming to Venezuela, or if details of the fight had been settled.

Tyson, who wore a blue running suit, spoke little to reporters. The flamboyant King dominated the impromptu news conference, often interjecting phrases in Spanish.

"Mucho dinero, no problema (lots of money, no problem)," King improvised when asked



King (right) holds Tyson's arm up shortly after their arrival in Caracas. (Reuter wirephoto)



Bruno (right) looks on as Astaire shows the contract for the title fight. (Reuter wirephoto)

about the Tyson-Bruno tilt. A contract has been signed for a Tyson title defence against Bruno, the Briton who is ranked No 1 by both the World Boxing Association and World Boxing Council. But Tyson has told manager Bill Clayton he wants the fight in the United States. "I would object to the switch," Bruno said during a news conference arranged in New York by Jarvis Astaire and Mickey Duff, who would be the co-promoter of a fight at London's Wembley stadium. "The fight was made for London, now he wants to fight over here. Why?" "I would love if Mike Tyson were here right now, so we could talk. It's been dangling for a year."

## Olympic events may be cut

TOKYO, Oct 18, (Reuter): International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Juan Antonio Samaranch said today some events might be cut at the 1992 Summer Olympic Games in Barcelona.

"The programme in the Summer Games is very, very solid today but we have to think, for example, about deleting the demonstration sports and maybe (taking) some other steps," he told

reporters.

Samaranch said the IOC can accept new events for the 1992 Winter Games in Albertville, France, but he did not specify which events would be eliminated or added.

The Seoul Olympics, which ended early this month, had 237 events for 23 sports, plus several sport demonstrations.

Samaranch arrived in Tokyo yesterday on his way to Seoul for the 1988

Paralympic Games which began last Saturday. He met Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita today and signed a well-wisher's book for the recovery of ailing Emperor Hirohito.

He said a general IOC meeting to be held in Tokyo in 1990 would decide the site for the 1996 Summer Games, which will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Olympics.

## Pakistan and India plan cricket series

SHARJAH, Oct 18, (Reuter): India and Pakistan are planning a short cricket series early next year to make up for the financial losses to the sport caused by floods, riots and politics, a cricket official said.

Pakistan's Board of Cricket Control (BCCI) secretary Arif Abbasi told Reuters today: "We have invited India to tour Pakistan early next year and I am hopeful the tour will come off."

## Senior and Mackay to play for Australia in World Cup

MELBOURNE, Oct 18, (Reuter): Australia will be represented by Peter Senior and Roger Mackay in December's Golfing World Cup after organisers failed to attract world number one Greg Norman.

Norman stated in August he wanted to represent his country in their bi-centennial year but organisers said yesterday the former British Open champion was unavailable.

## Missing

England's Nick Faldo, Bernhard Langer of West Germany and Spain's Severiano Ballesteros are also missing from the field, promoter Tony Roosenburg told a news conference.

England's team consists of Mark James and Barry Lane while West Germany will be represented by little-known Carlo Knauss and Wolfgang

John. Ben Crenshaw and Mark McCumber will make up the US team.

This Irish team of Ronan Rafferty and Des Smyth have been installed as favourites for the event from December 8-11 after their win last weekend in the Dunhill Cup, with the Spanish team of Manuel Pinero and Jose Rivero also well-supported.

In August organisers said they would ignore the team of Senior and Mackay chosen by the Australian PGA and would instead invite Norman and Rodger Davis.

The PGA did not pick Norman because he played in only four Australian tournaments in 1987, all of which he won. PGA rules state a minimum of five must be played for a player to be considered for the Order of Merit.

## North Koreans honour Cubans

HAVANA, Oct 18, (Reuter): The North Korean government has honoured 173 Cuban athletes in a move seen by diplomats as a gesture of gratitude for Cuba's boycott of the Seoul Olympics.

The official newspaper Granma said today that the awards were presented to a visiting Cuban delegation by Foreign Minister Kim Yong-Nam during a ceremony in Pyongyang.

The delegation, led by a Cuban Communist Party official, received the medals for the 173 athletes who had been similarly honoured in Cuba last month by President Fidel Castro.

"We are proud to have such brothers who remain faithful to the principles of the revolution and adhere to our cause for the reunification of our country because Korea is only one, Granma quoted Kim as saying.

## I am here to win: Abdullah Omar

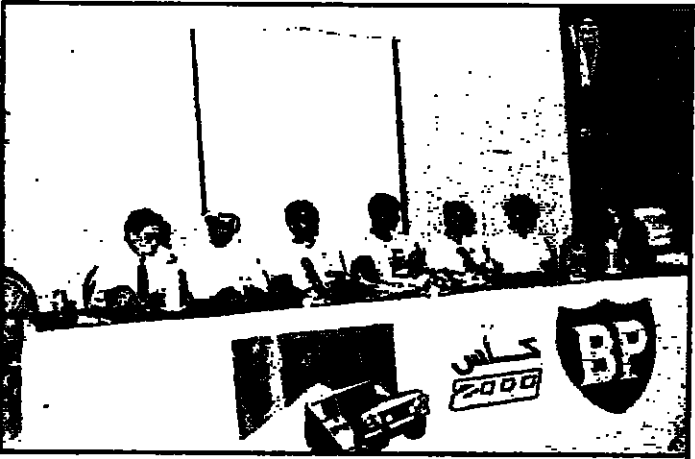
By Gail Seery

EVERY competitor in Friday's Al Ghani/BP 2000 Jeep Rally agrees that one of the strongest competitors in the event will be Dubian Abdullah Omar. He will be driving the long wheel base version of the Mitsubishi Sonato, which Abbas Al Mousawi piloted into first place in the Bahrain round of this year's Marlboro Desert Challenge.

This is a significantly more powerful vehicle than the two Mitsubishi Pajeros which competed in last year's Challenge, and was originally designed as a "rapid assistance" vehicle for rally marathons like the Paris-Dakar rally. The 2.6 litre engine is turbo charged with a maximum power of 250hp, and a top speed of 200 kph. The whole suspension, transmission and braking systems have been modified and adapted for the gruelling conditions likely to be met on such events.

**Dropping**  
In the Dubai round of this year's Challenge, Abdullah Omar took the car into a disappointing fourth place after dropping eight minutes because of a puncture. "I was leading before the puncture," he explained.

"This coming year will be my tenth time to do the Masafi Rally. I've come first twice, second once and a few times I was in the top ten." Masafi is generally considered to be of a tougher standard than the fled-



The Marlboro team at the press conference.

gling jeep rallies being organised elsewhere in the Gulf.

Omar is inclined to dismiss his apparent advantage. "4wd is 4wd. I'm going to have disadvantages the others don't have and in the end it will be the same. Eid Falah tells me he's running at 280hp. I don't know what Tareq's got, and I'm running at 250, so where is the advantage? There are also strong jeeps coming from Saudi."

Nor was Omar prepared to say who he thought was likely to present the toughest opposition. "Being one of the oldest competitors in the Middle East, I never underestimate any competitor. There will be moments when the ordinary cars will have an advantage, as the lower

powered cars are less likely to have problems from over-heating. I was practising today, and it was very hot. This is a problem for the high powered cars."

"I am 100 per cent here to win." He has Mubarak Al Hajri, cousin to Saeed Al Hajri as his co-driver, and this is their third time out together. They have done a local rally together and also finished fifth in the Masafi. Al Hajri is becoming one of the Middle East's most experienced co-drivers, having partnered Abbas Al Mousawi, Saeed Al Hajri, Hamad Al Mazroui and many others.

"Mine is a very good car," said Omar. "It is very well prepared. The Mitsubishi people are working very hard on keeping these

cars in the best condition."

"I will take it fairly easy on the first stage. I always do this. When a person is nervous he is liable to make mistakes. I will drive fast, but steadily. All the same, I'm not prepared to drop a second to anyone, and intend to take the lead from the first stage."

A further feature of this year's Challenge is the Manufacturers' Championship. This is currently led by Mitsubishi Lalliati, followed by Range Rover/Zayani, Nissan and Toyota.

Novice driver Hosam Sayafe and co-driver Amjad Qutainch had a piece of good news yesterday when Pepsi agreed to sponsor not only Sayafe's Suzuki jeep, but also his 24R Tigercat, which he will be racing in next week's third Bi-annual Offshore Powerboat Race.

## Successful

Sayafe is driving a standard jeep but is a determined driver and could have a very successful future ahead of him. He and Qutainch are ready for the rally and have been practising hard for the event.

The Marlboro team — Tareq Al Wazzan, co-driver Khaled Khalifa, Eid Falah, co-driver Sadeq Ashkanani and team manager Toni Samia participated in a press conference at the Meridien Hotel yesterday. Both drivers are figured to be among the potential front runners.

The rally will start at 9 am on Friday, from outside the Mesilah Beach Hotel.

**free time**

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